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CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT/START/MBFR

TASS Reportage on Rostow Resignation AA 1
Sign of 'Differences' AA 1
Replacement Named AA 1
USSR Considering 'Destroying Some Missiles' [DPA] AA 1
PRAVDA Questions U.S. Disarmament Stance [13 Jan] AA 3
British, French Nuclear Arms Must Figure in Balance AA 5
[Morozov in TRUD 12 Jan]
Serious Attention to Soviet Proposals Urged AA 6
[Portugalov in MOSCOW NEWS No 1]

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Views Warsaw Pact Summit BB 1
[Shishlin, 8 Jan]

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

IZVESTIYA Scores U.S. Refusal To Finance Sea Law CC 1
[Bandura, 8 Jan]

UNITED STATES & CANADA

President's Radio Speech on USSR Policy Reviewed A 1
[Korshunov, Blinov]
Media Comments on Reagan Defense Budget Cuts A 1
Dallas Statement Assessed [Kozyakov] A 1
Weinberger Remarks Viewed [Korshunov, Blinov] A 2
TASS: Cuts 'Another Ploy' A 3
TASS Reports Secretary Schweiker Resignation A 3
Reports on DC-8 Crash Reveal 'Differences' A 4
Romanov Meets With Canadian Ambassador in Leningrad A 4
[LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA 6 Jan]

SOUTH ASIA

U.S.-Pakistan Military Cooperation Noted D 1
[Korolev]
RPP Comments on Pakistan's Arms Build-up D 1
[Gradov]
U.S. Seeks To Halt Indo-Pakistani Normalization D 2
[Bulantsev in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 5 Jan]
Briefs: DRA Education Delegation Leaves Tashkent D 3

WESTERN EUROPE

Bush's W. Europe Trip 'Diversionary Propaganda' G 1
FRG's Vogel Gives Moscow Press Conference G 1
'We Have More Hopes' G 1
Moscow TV Report G 2
'A Step Forward' [AFP] G 3
Delegation Leaves for Home G 3
FRG Reaction to Prague Proposals Viewed G 3
[Korolev in IZVESTIYA 10 Jan]
Gromyko, Belgian Envoy Discuss Prague Proposals G 5
Marchuk in France for Cooperation Talks G 5
Meets President Mitterrand G 5
Talks With Prime Minister G 6
Cooperation Talks Begin G 6
Marchuk on Cooperation Talks G 7
PCF Protests French TV and Radio Policy G 8
[Shchedrov in PRAVDA 6 Jan]
Swedish Foreign Ministry Official in Moscow G 8
[Stockholm]
Commentary on NATO Activity in Northern Europe G 8
[Teterin]
Text of IZVESTIYA Commentary on General Rogers G 10
[Ivanov in IZVESTIYA 12 Jan]
Portuguese CP Spokesman on Government Crises G 11
TRUD Interviews Former NATO General Pasti G 11
[Prokofyev in TRUD 8 Jan]

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Marines in Beirut 'Concealing Israeli Excesses' H 1
[Rassadin]
Israel Seeks 'Permanent Presence' on West Bank H 1
'Arafat Continues Visit, Meets With Leaders H 2
Talks With Andropov, Others H 2
Dinner Hosted by Gromyko H 3
13 Jan Press Conference H 3
Relations With USSR H 4
PLO-Jordan Confederation [AFP] H 5
Egypt Relations, Cairo 'Reservations' Viewed H 5
[Zlatorunskiy]
Volskiy: Iranian Revolution at 'Crossroads' H 6
[NOVOYE VREMYA No 2]

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

USSR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Tikhonov Receives Congratulatory Messages P 1
SFRY's Planinc [IZVESTIYA 25 Dec] P 1
DPRK Premier [IZVESTIYA 25 Dec] P 1
SRV's Le Duan Addresses 21 December Session P 2
[PRAVDA 22 Dec]
Comparison of Shevardnadze Speech on 21 Dec P 3
Comparison of Romanov Speech at 21 Dec Session P 5

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Supreme Soviet Presidium Session Held 12 Jan R 1
Report on Andropov Speech R 1
TV Report R 3
Belorussian, CPSU Officials Honor Kiselev R 3
Slyunkov Elected New Belorussian Party Head R 4
CC Directive Views Production Efficiency,Quality R 4
Israel: USSR Said Stiffening Immigration Policy R 5
[Jerusalem]
Supreme Soviet Amnesty Decree Published R 5
[IZVESTIYA 28 Dec]
SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on Soviet Peoples Fraternity [21 Dec] R 8
PRAVDA Reports Result of Year-Old Fraud Case R 9
[Shatunovskiy, 18 Dec]
Solomentsev Addresses Textile Ministry Collegium R 10
Shevardnadze Attends Opening of Railroad Line R 10
[Lebanidze in PRAVDA 5 Jan]
Romanov Attends Meeting, Signs Obituary R 11
[LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA 10, 15 Dec]
RSFSR Minister Speaks on Legal Institutions Role R 11

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1982 Gas Pipeline Construction Reviewed S 1
Briefs: New Dam Construction S 1

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture Ministry Collegium; Gorbachev Speaks T 1
Agricultural Developments for 8-12 Jan Reported T 1

TASS REPORTAGE ON ROSTOW RESIGNATION

Sign of 'Differences'

LD130004 Moscow TASS in English 2340 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Washington January 13 TASS -- It has been announced here that Eugene Rostow, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, has resigned.

Rostow is known as one of the "hawks" in the Reagan administration, who was back in the past one of the founders of the "Committee on the Present Danger." Of late, however, serious differences developed between him and Reagan's entourage on the problem of arms control and the tactics at the Soviet-American negotiations regarding limitations of strategic armaments and deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Euorpe.

Rostow's resignation is yet another indication of the serious differences now rending the Reagan adminsitration from which in recent days two secretaries have resigned -- the transport secretary Lewis and Secretary of Health and Welfare Shweicker.

Replacement Named

LD131200 Moscow TASS in English 1115 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Washington January 13 TASS -- Eugene Rostow, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, has resigned from this post. Lately he has had serious differences with Reagan's people concerning the problems of arms control, the tactics at the Soviet-American talks on the limitation of strategic arms and the deployment of American medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

Soon after Eugene Rostow announced his resignation the White House published a statement by President Reagan in which he contended that his administration supposedly has no higher priority and loftier aim than lessening the danger and reducing the means of waging a conflict and the attainment of genuine peace and justice in the world. At the same time the President repeated the already known concepts of his administration reflecting its striving to upset the existing approximate balance of forces in the world and achieve decisive military superiority over the Soviet Union.

The President announced his decision to appoint Kenneth Adelman instead of Rostow and to appoint David Emery to the post of Rostow's deputy. From August 1981 Adelman held the post of deputy permanent representative of the United States at the United Nations Organization.

USSR CONSIDERING 'DESTROYING SOME MISSILES'

LD121542 Hamburg DPA in German 1503 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Moscow, 12 Jan (DPA) -- As part of an agreement on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union is also considering destroying some of its SS-20's. This was apparently indicated to SPD chancellor candidate Hans-Jochen Vogel and to a group of U.S. congressmen in Moscow. Vogel indirectly confirmed this at a press conference at the conclusion of his 3-day visit today.

Vogel stated, however, that he first wanted to brief his "friends" in the Federal Republic about how CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov on Tuesday and Soviet experts today had elucidated the Soviet and Warsaw Pact proposals. The SPD chancellor candidate repeated that he had ended his visits to Washington and Moscow "with greater hope" than he had started them.

At a luncheon in the Kremlin earlier, Vogel welcomed every step towards an agreement, "removing existing missile systems and preventing the establishment of new missile systems." Andropov's proposals contain "constructive elements which aim in this direction." Vogel went on to say: "We are also confident that the other world power, with whom we are allied....will not persist unchangingly in its initial positions, especially on the question of medium-range missiles."

According to information from American sources, the Soviet negotiators in Geneva, Yuliy Kvitsinskiy and Viktor Karpov, told a group of U.S. congressmen, led by Thomas Lantos, in Moscow on Wednesday that the Soviet Union is thinking of "destroying some missiles" should there be a reduction of medium-range weapons in Europe. American sources said that this meant SS-20 missiles also. However, no number was mentioned.

In reply to a question on whether such explanations of the Soviet stance had also been made to him, Vogel, at a press conference on Wednesday, would only say that he could not contradict Lantos' reports. Explanations by Andropov on his own proposals and on the declaration of the Prague Eastern bloc summit were further explained for Vogel on Wednesday during a talk with experts, which was also attended by the Soviet negotiator, Kvitsinskiy, who is responsible for medium-range weapons.

In his dinner speech at the Kremlin, Vogel again supported the "continuation of the policy of Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt," above all in the safeguarding of peace. In this connection, Vogel expressed himself critically with regard to Afghanistan and Poland. "The securing of peace means that all peoples should be able to determine their own fate, free from external intervention," he said.

The situation in Afghanistan "continues" to create concern for the reason that "an acceptable political solution is not yet in sight." Developments in Poland are also being followed "with concern and sympathy in spite of certain progress noted recently."

SPD spokesman Wolfgang Clement said that the dinner was given by the Soviet Government. The host, however, was Central Committee Secretary for International Relations Boris Ponomarev.

At the press conference, Vogel said that he had been impressed by his talk with Andropov and the "breadth and depth of the information," he had given. "My impression is that I spoke with a man who is fully aware of his responsibilities, as one of the two most powerful men in the world, for warding off a nuclear disaster and for the fate of the world, and not only for his own people," Vogel said.

Vogel told journalists that judging by his treatment in Moscow, and previously in Washington, he thought the political opposition did not rule out his being in a "responsible post" after the 6 March Bundestag elections.

At the press conference Vogel did not specifically call for a move by Washington away from the "zero option," which enivsages that American medium-range weapons will not be deployed if Soviet SS-20 missiles are scrapped. Vogel did not however say that in this important issue one should take account of the fact that the starting point of both sides in negotiations seldom remains unchanged at the end.

Vogel described his party's view of the aim of the negotiations in different ways. Whereas in his dinner speech he said that "the present weapons systems must be removed and the stationing of new ones prevented," at the press conference he said: "reduction of the present missiles and no stationing of new ones."

This Thursday, Vogel, when he talks with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris, will probably brief him on the Moscow talks.

PRAVDA QUESTIONS U.S. DISARMAMENT STANCE

LD121800 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS -- In its January 13 issue the newspaper PRAVDA publishes the following editorial article entitled "Contrary to Facts":

'It is long known how difficult it is to prove obvious things to a person who deliberately does not want to recognise facts.

Stubborn disregard for facts is the dominant feature of the approach of the United States of America to the problem of limiting nuclear arms in Europe. As is known, the Soviet Union has proposed that after the reduction of medium-range armaments it would retain exactly the same number of missiles of this range as there would be on the side of NATO, that is in the possession of Britain and France, and exactly the same number of medium-range aircraft with a nuclear capability as in the possession of the United States, Britain and France put together.

What can be more clear-cut and honest than this proposal outlined in Yuriy V. Andropov's report on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the USSR? Does it give any side unilateral military advantages or establishes somebody's military superiority? Of course not.

It is common knowledge that in the overall balance of nuclear forces in Europe the respective British and French armaments are on the same side, on the same scale as the armaments of the United States. It would seem that there is no and cannot be any cause for disagreement here -- everything is so self-evident, the facts are so irrefutable. It is enough to recall that these states are allies in the North Atlantic military-political bloc and all the t's crossed and the i's dotted.

Washington, however, contrary to facts would like to prove that the nuclear armaments of the U.S. allies should by no means be counted on the same side of the balance of forces in Europe as the American ones. True, the American Administration's approach is totally diffferent when it comes to drawing up NATO's plans, to prodding the West European members of this bloc to increase military spending and stockpile ever new means of conducting war.

But the moment the question arises of limiting nuclear armaments in Europe everything changes as though by touch of a magic wand. It turns out that the American representatives have never even heard about the nuclear arms of their allies and are of the opinion that it is best for the Soviet Union to forget about them.

Perhaps the nuclear forces of America's NATO allies are so insignificant that it is permissible to ignore them? Nothing of the sort: Britain and France now account for more than a quarter of all medium-range nuclear delivery vehicles of NATO countries in Europe (aircraft and missiles). It is also known that the nuclear armaments of Britain and France are being constantly perfected and built up.

On what then, may one ask, does the United States base its stand? Various arguments are being invented for this purpose. There are references to the sovereignty of Britain and France, to their non-participation in the Geneva talks, to some "special" national character of the nuclear arsenals of these countries and even to their status of permament members of the United Nations Security Council.

There is no logic at all in any of these arguments. For the Soviet Union does not even propose any limitation of the nuclear armaments of Britain and France. Not a single provision of the Soviet-American treaty on the reduction and limitation of nuclear armaments in Europe would impose any obligations on Britain and France, nor could it impose any, for that matter, because these countries would not be parties to the treaty. What we are speaking about is something that is quite natural and necessary: to take into account the nuclear armaments of Britain and France as a factual value in the balance that would be established as a result of the reduction of the nuclear armaments of the USSR and the USA in Europe.

The British and French nuclear armaments are being taken into account by the Soviet Union at present, they must be taken into account and will be taken into account in the future as well -- be it in an agreement or by some other method. The Soviet Union does not demand anything of Britain and France.

But it demands with full right from the United States that the treaty on the reduction and limitation of nuclear arms in Europe should accord with the principle of the equality and equal security of the sides. But there can be no equal security in Europe if the British and French nuclear armaments are exempted from the count.

The stubborn intent of the United States to avoid including in the count the British and French armaments is nothing but an attempt to impose on the Soviet side an unequal treaty designed to ensure NATO's superiority over the Warsaw Treaty countries.

This can in no way be regarded as evidence of desire to seek accord with the Soviet Union. The United States cannot but know that the Soviet Union will not resort to unilateral disarmament and neither will it allow NATO's superiority. This means that by setting forth proposals that are known to be unacceptable in advance and refusing to take into account existing realities the United States is deliberately leading the talks into an impasse.

The USSR keeps to a different approach to the talks. It does not seek unilateral advantages for itself and does not strive to deceive anyone. It is not conducting talks for the sake of talks by setting forth various invented demands that are known to be unacceptable to the other side. The Soviet side is prepared to go a long way in the solution of the problem of nuclear armaments in Europe, including the attainment of a full liberation of the continent from medium-range and tactical nuclear weapons, given that the other powers possessing nuclear armaments agree to this, and a reduction of medium-range weapons by more than two thirds. But strict account of existing realities and prevention of a violation of the balance of forces that has taken shape here in the course of decades is the precondition of any solution of the question of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

As to the balance of forces it is determined by the fact that in the east of Europe the only nuclear power is the USSR while in the west, along with the United States, Britain and France are nuclear powers as well.

In the interests of attaining agreement the Soviet Union has set forth constructive, far-reaching proposals. They open the road to a radical and fair solution of the question of limiting nuclear armaments in Europe. Such a solution would be in the interests of all who really treasure peace and the security of peoples. But for the attainment of progress at the talks it is imperative for the other side, the United States, also to proceed in practice from real factors that determine the situation in Europe and give up the attempts to hoodwink the other side. Addressing our partners in the talks, we say: Be more honest and decent." [quotation mark as received]

BRITISH, FRENCH NUCLEAR ARMS MUST FIGURE IN BALANCE

LD121224 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0540 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow, 12 Jan (TASS) -- The new proposal by the Soviet Union to retain in Europe only as many missiles as those possessed by Britain and France has elicited a widespread response throughtout the world, writes military observer V. Morozov in TRUD today. Objective people see it as another confirmation of our country's sincere desire to achieve the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms in the European zone. At the same time, as is known, it has been rejected out of hand in Washington and the capitals of the other NATO countries. "In trying to justify this negative position, Western propaganda, among other fabricated 'arguments', frequently makes assertions about the alleged 'weakness' of the British and French nuclear potentials, saying that they ought not to be taken into consideration at all."

After reviewing the well-known facts about the nuclear potentials of Britain and France in medium-range weapons, the observer goes on: "Now the potential of both these West European nuclear powers is being intensively modernized by fitting the missiles with a greater number of warheads. For instance, in Britain 6 warheads are being fitted on each 'Polaris' missile instead of 3 (and after the replacement of 'Polaris' by 'Trident', each missile will have 8 to 14 warheads). France plans to replace single-warhead missiles with missiles carrying seven warheads; and by 1990 it intends to increase the number of atomic missile-carrying submarines to seven (there are five at present).

"Counting up all the warheads," the article points out, "the British and French missiles could now put up 340 nuclear charges simultaneously, by 1985 about 600 charges totalling over 130 megatons and by 1990 almost 1,200 charges totalling up to 170 megatons. Thus, as a result of the modernization of British and French nuclear weapons, the arsenal of the two powers in terms of the number of nuclear charges which can be put up simultaneously will be almost three times as much in 1990 as it is today."

The article notes that the American "Trident II" ballistic missiles, which the Thatcher government plans to put in British missile-carrying submarines, will have virtually the same military capabilities as the new land-based intercontinental "MX" missiles -- that is, they will be a first-strike weapon. Britain alone will then have about 900 high-precision warheads.

"The military role, capabilities and potential of such missiles should be understood by all sober-minded people. They are capable of reaching targets all the way into the USSR."

"As for the Western propaganda thesis of the so-called 'weakness' of the nuclear potential of Britain and France," the article says, "in the light of the factual data set out above, it can again be stressed that this thesis is false from beginning to end. The British and French nuclear potentials as a whole and their main component, the missiles, are sufficiently powerful and are aimed at the USSR and other socialist countries. Indeed, the 192 warheads of the British 'Polaris' missiles aimed at the USSR on their own could cause an explosion 3,000 times as powerful as the one that took place in Hiroshima in 1945."

"Thus", the observer concludes, "the Soviet Union is faced with the impressive arsenal of British and French nuclear weapons in Western Europe as well as the American forward-based weapons systems. Britain and France are continuing to modernize their arsenals, and it is quite impossible to leave this out in calculating the overall balance of forces in Europe."

SERIOUS ATTENTION TO SOVIET PROPOSALS URGED

WA121815 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 1, 9-16 Jan 83 p 6

["It Is Worthwhile To Ponder" by Nikolay Portugalov]

[Text] Rashness. Superficiality. This is what is most striking about the first response in the NATO capitals to the plan suggested by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yuriy Andropov for the establishment of European parity in medium-range weapons, in accordance with which the Soviet Union would retain in Europe only as many missiles as are maintained by Britain and France. The impression is that the leaders of the USA and other NATO countries are eager to neutralize the impact of the Soviet initiative on the West European public as soon as possible, and thus "close the book" on the question. These attempts are hopeless. The far-reaching Soviet proposals have evoked a positive response, not only among the public, but also in the political circles of West European countries.

Let us, however, examine the objections already made by the West. The arguments cited by the White House spokesman simply don't appear serious: how is one to understand the "thesis", for example, that Britain and France have their own "deterrence" forces which have no relation to the Soviet-American equation in medium-range weapons in Europe? Shouldn't it be taken to mean that the Soviet Union must take care of three equilibriums at once? No, the British and French medium-range, national systems are part of the NATO balance and are targeted only on objectives on Soviet territory and not, say, on the Falkland Islands. Leonid Zamyatin stated this at a press conference in Moscow during the anniversary celebrations. The independent nuclear forces of France, to say nothing of those of Britain, are linked to the NATO potential with an inseverable umbilical cord.

Suffice it to say that these forces would generally be unable to operate without the bloc's early warning and observation system. Paris is, of course, free not to agree to the inclusion of its potential in the Geneva equations. But after all, they cannot expect the USSR to regard the French missiles, which are being continuously modernized, as some harmless quantity that can be safely ignored!

Incidentally, even if we proceed from de Gaulle's "strategy of all azimuths", which has been practically forgotten in Paris, hardly anyone will doubt that the chief "azimuth" of the French "strike forces" is directed against the Soviet Union and its friends. Only recently it was pointed out in French military quarters that Paris already has enough nuclear capability to destroy all major Soviet cities.

Moscow by no means suggests that Paris and London should assume some commitments with regard to their national potentials -- they are simply considered inalienable elements of the European nuclear balance.

As regards Washington's concern "for its friends in Asia", on whose territory (as in Japan, for instance) it has stationed carrier systems of medium-range weapons, it must be said with full determination that the talks in Geneva concern nuclear weapons in Europe and in Europe alone. This, incidentally, is also in conformity with the NATO mandate on the so-called "two-track decision". The Soviet medium-range systems located in the eastern areas of our country, from where they cannot reach targets in Europe, counterbalance the corresponding systems targeted on the USSR in Asia and have no relation to Europe. However, any talk about them would require different conditions and, first and foremost, presuppose a different range of participants. In the West it is often repeated in this connection that "the Russians can at any moment transfer

their mobile SS 20s from Siberia to the European parts of the country". But in reality it is totally impossible to do this quickly and stealthily, considering the present-day national observation means. At any rate the Americans will find it much easier to transfer "at any moment" to Europe any quantity of their cruise missiles, which they intend to deploy in thousands, if not in tens of thousands.

Now about the one more "argument" from the Bonn Foreign Ministry. Essentially, it is the following: once you agree to cut down your missiles, you indirectly admit that you have superiority.

No, proposing to establish a "missile limit" in Europe within the framework of the total number of both sides' medium size weapons to be reduced, and removing more than one dozen of the most up-do-date Soviet missiles for this purpose, the USSR by no means admits -- tacitly or indirectly -- the existence of its superiority in medium-range means.

After all, it is simultaneously proposed to establish a corresponding limit in the number of medium-range nuclear-delivery aircraft as well. In this way the continental nuclear parity will not be upset, but its level will be reduced. Let me also say that previsouly the USSR put forward an even more radical proposal -- to rid Europe completely of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical.

The new Soviet proposals deserve the most serious consideration and response. It would be a dangerous mistake to shrug them off with rash and superficial arguments. It is worthwhile to ponder them properly.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA VIEWS WARSAW PACT SUMMIT

PM121523 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 Jan 83 Second Edition p 1

["International Review" by Nikolay Shishlin: "Safeguarding Peace"]

[Text] The 2-day conference of the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee held in the Czeckoslovak capital has generated great international interest. To a certain extent this interest is traditional -- the socialist states' political weight in the world today is such that, entirely naturally, close attention is constantly focused on their foreign policy aspirations. At the same time the Prague conference of the Political Consultative Committee came at a moment which was highly crucial for the destiny of Europe and the world.

The reality of our day is the growth of tension in international relations and the augmentation of negative phenomena in world politics. How the socialist countries assess the situation, what mode of action they choose for themselves, how they see the future -- these are the questions to which answers were expected from Prague.

Well, there are answers now. Clear answers. They were given in the Political Declaration signed by the Warsaw Pact members.

The analysis of the situation given by the leaders of the socialist states, is free of complacency. It is a mercilessly sober and, at the same time, balanced analysis.

As a result of the aggressive forces' heightened activity, the development of world events is acquiring a dangerous nature. Detente is threatened. This is the direct consequence of the policy of the United States and some of its allies which have resolved to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union and the socialist world.

The buildup of military preparations is proceeding at the same time as actions aimed at destroying businesslike ties between countries belonging to different social systems. Failing to take account of the interests of its own allies and indeed the interests of a substantial proportion of U.S. business, the Reagan administration would obviously like to organize some sort of trade war against the socialist world. This includes the desire to toughen the credit policy with respect to the socialist countries, all sorts of bans on the export of modern machinery and equipment and so forth. The failure of attempts to topple the "gas for pipes" deal when the U.S. partners refused to obey Washington's instructions seems to have taught the present U.S. Administration little.

A shadow is also falling over international relations in connection with the propaganda war which Washington is trying to wage against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. In a fog of myths and fabrications concerning socialist policy and socialist reality, the U.S. Administration would like to conceal the opportunities that exist for normalizing the situation and strengthening peaceful cooperation.

It must be admitted that it is possible to discern in Washington's actions a quite integral course profoundly hostile to the socialist world and undoubtedly dangerous for the destiny of international security. But what we have just said does not mean that the evil consistency of U.S. policy is bringing its makers the results they expect. That is not the case. But it is generating enough anxieties and concerns.

The socialist countries are naturally concerned for their own security. They have known how to look after it in the past, and, possessing a mighty economic potential now, they have the opportunity to do this even better than yesterday. The Political Consultative Committee's decisions prove yet again how illusory are the United States' calculations aimed at disrupting the prevailing military parity and changing the correlation of forces in its favor.

But the Warsaw Pact countries' response to imperialism's challenge does not boil down merely to the necessary concern for their defense capability. It is clear from the Political Declaration that the socialist countries intend to continue to focus their main efforts in overcoming international tension and strengthening the detente process.

In the present unsettled situation it is particularly necessary to get the business of arms limitation and reduction moving. This dictates the USSR's practical and constructive approach toward talks with the United States on strategic arms limitation and reduction. This responsible, businesslike line is adhered to strictly by the Soviet Union at the talks on nuclear armaments in Europe. It is also fully inherent in the joint stance of the socialist countries at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

A fatalistic concept of the inevitability of ever-new spirals of the arms race is alien to the Warsaw Pact members. While adhering to the principle of the sides' equality and identical security, it is possible gradually to come to a mutual lowering of armaments ceilings. But understandably, honesty and boldness are needed to attain real results. It is these qualities which are displayed by the specific stance adopted in Prague by the participants in the Political Consultative Committee Conference.

The socialist countries attach fundamental importance in the struggle for detente to the situation in Europe. It was Europe which was the cradle of the detente process and it is on the states of Europe that the rhythm and dynamics of the detente process and its confident development depend to an enormous extent.

I think that responsible political circles in West Europe will not overlook the clear position of the socialist countries which advocate maintaining and intensifying political dialogue among all European countries, the all-around expansion of business-like cooperation in the trade, economic, industrial, agricultural and scientific and technical spheres, and the expansion of spiritual communication among the European peoples. All this is possible in Europe, and not in some remote long term but right now.

Particularly favorable conditions for thickening the fabric of peaceful cooperation among European states would be created if the problem of cutting back nuclear armaments in Europe were successfully resolved. And, of course, the value of European peace is too great for the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear armaments to be artificially restricted by stringent deadlines strictly speaking, by those deadline's determined by the U.S. Administration's aspiration to begin the deployment of the new U.S. nuclear missile weapons in West Europe as early as this fall.

There are many useful and interesting ideas to which the attention of all European states is drawn, ideas whose implementation would serve to normalize substantially the political climate of our continent.

They include the creation of nuclear-free zones in the Balkans and northern Europe, the transformation of the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation and, of course, a conference on confidence-building measures and security and disarmament in Europe on whose convening it is essential to reach agreement in Madrid.

The proposal to conclude a treaty between the Warsaw Pact and NATO states on the mutual nonuse of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations is undoubtedly fundamental and promising. The Political Declaration of the Political Consultative Committee's Prague conference reveals the socialist countries' concept of what this treaty might be, open for the accession, as equal signatories, of any other states which so desire.

The first responses to the Political Declaration have as a whole been favorable. The documents adopted are being closely studied in political circles. They are being commented on extensively in the press, radio, television and other mass media. Austrian Federal Chancellor B. Kreisky stressed in a talk with a correspondent of the newspaper ARBEITER ZEITUNG: "It is essential to view very conscientiously the proposals put forward in Prague. It is entirely possible that they will lay the foundation for a new period of contacts between East and West." H.-J. Vogel, the Social Democratic Party of Germany's candidate for the FRG federal chancellorship, who is in the United States on a visit, gave a positive assessment of the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries. In particular he described as a "good idea" the proposal to conclude a treaty on the reciprocal nonuse of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace between the Warsaw Pact and NATO states. H.-J. Vogel stressed the need for a "serious study" of this proposal.

Essentially the results of the Political Consultative Committee's conference are weighty evidence that despite the unsettled international situation the socialist countries see real opportunities for smoothing it out. In strengthening collaboration between each other and coordinating their foreign policy actions, the Warsaw Pact members are prepared for dialogue with all those seeking to attain the lofty goal of strengthening peace in Europe and throughout the world. The socialist countries are confident of their strength -- Prague bears that out. The socialist countries are devoted to the ideals of peace and peaceful cooperation -- Prague bears this out too. This is a substantial guarantee that the start of the eighties, which has been difficult for international life, will be replaced by stabler, calmer and more secure times.

The socialist countries are naturally concerned for their own security. They have known how to look after it in the past, and, possessing a mighty economic potential now, they have the opportunity to do this even better than yesterday. The Political Consultative Committee's decisions prove yet again how illusory are the United States' calculations aimed at disrupting the prevailing military parity and changing the correlation of forces in its favor.

But the Warsaw Pact countries' response to imperialism's challenge does not boil down merely to the necessary concern for their defense capability. It is clear from the Political Declaration that the socialist countries intend to continue to focus their main efforts in overcoming international tension and strengthening the detente process.

In the present unsettled situation it is particularly necessary to get the business of arms limitation and reduction moving. This dictates the USSR's practical and constructive approach toward talks with the United States on strategic arms limitation and reduction. This responsible, businesslike line is adhered to strictly by the Soviet Union at the talks on nuclear armaments in Europe. It is also fully inherent in the joint stance of the socialist countries at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

A fatalistic concept of the inevitability of ever-new spirals of the arms race is alien to the Warsaw Pact members. While adhering to the principle of the sides' equality and identical security, it is possible gradually to come to a mutual lowering of armaments ceilings. But understandably, honesty and boldness are needed to attain real results. It is these qualities which are displayed by the specific stance adopted in Prague by the participants in the Political Consultative Committee Conference.

The socialist countries attach fundamental importance in the struggle for detente to the situation in Europe. It was Europe which was the cradle of the detente process and it is on the states of Europe that the rhythm and dynamics of the detente process and its confident development depend to an enormous extent.

I think that responsible political circles in West Europe will not overlook the clear position of the socialist countries which advocate maintaining and intensifying political dialogue among all European countries, the all-around expansion of business-like cooperation in the trade, economic, industrial, agricultural and scientific and technical spheres, and the expansion of spiritual communication among the European peoples. All this is possible in Europe, and not in some remote long term but right now.

Particularly favorable conditions for thickening the fabric of peaceful cooperation among European states would be created if the problem of cutting back nuclear armaments in Europe were successfully resolved. And, of course, the value of European peace is too great for the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear armaments to be artificially restricted by stringent deadlines strictly speaking, by those deadline's determined by the U.S. Administration's aspiration to begin the deployment of the new U.S. nuclear missile weapons in West Europe as early as this fall.

There are many useful and interesting ideas to which the attention of all European states is drawn, ideas whose implementation would serve to normalize substantially the political climate of our continent.

IZVESTIYA SCORES U.S. REFUSAL TO FINANCE SEA LAW

PM131023 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jan 83 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by Yu. Bangdura: "In the Tracks of the Filibusters"]

[Excerpts] R. Reagan's administration has taken a new step on the path toward confrontation with the international community: The White House has decided to refuse to finance the preparatory commission which is to meet 15 March in Jamaica to elaborate the conditions for implementing the world [vseobshchaya] convention on the Law of the Sea.

The convention in its final form on the whole gives equal consideration to the interests of all states and groups of states. Here we are talking about interests in a very important sphere of law regulation like all avenues of states' activity in using the expanses and resources of the world ocean: The 1,000 or so legal norms included in the convention regulate all the main questions of man's activity on the expanses of the sea and his use of the sea's resources.

This document provides for the creation of an international organ on the sea bed whose tasks are to include regulating all activity concerned with prospecting and developing the sea bed's resources. The formation of a Law of the Sea tribunal is also envisaged. It is thus a case of creating large-scale new international organizations. The commission is to engage in their formation.

From this it can be understood that Washington's refusal to finance the work of the commission is tantamount to an attempt to torpedo both the creation of these organizations and ultimately the implementation of the convention. In other words, we are talking about a U.S. desire to impose its own will on the international community or at least, on the world ocean too, to place its own interests above the interests of the absolute majority of UN states.

In its own way this is a consistent position: From the first steps in the work of the UN Law of the Sea conference Washington set a course aimed at securing a situation in which the convention would guarantee the American monopolies a number of unilateral advantages, primarily in the regulations governing the exploitation of sea bed resources. Washington maintained this diktat strategy to the end: During the final vote the U.S. delegation opposed approval of the convention.

Although the convention will be open for signing for 2 years Washington is already stating that it does not intend to sign the document. This does not deprive the United States of the right to take part in the preparatory commission, even if only as an observer. But, in hastening to burn its bridges to equal, fair cooperation in the world ocean the Reagan administration is renouncing this right. Which it is confirming by its decision to refuse to finance the commission.

Describing this step, UN Secretary General J. Perez de Cuellar stressed: "The refusal of any UN state to make its contribution to the budget is an extremely serious matter for the United Nations since it affects its ability to perform its functions." The United States' selfish actions are also being denounced by all those countries whose persistent efforts helped to elaborate the Law of the Sea convention. Nor should we expect a different reaction: U.S. aspirations to establish a regime of great-power tyranny in the world ocean are too obvious and Washington's reluctance to consider the demands of the times and the peoples' will is too blatant.

PRESIDENT'S RADIO SPEECH ON USSR POLICY REVIEWED

LD122328 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 83

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Aleksandr Korshunov and Oleg Blinov]

[Text] In his latest radio statement, U.S. President Reagan touched on many aspects of international life. In particular, Reagan expressed a number of opinions on Soviet-American relations, which he described as one of the most important aspects of America's role in the world. Reagan expressed hope that the future would bring an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union and an era of stability. However, while pronouncing generally good words, the President asserted that during the 1970's only the United States displayed restraint and the Soviet Union, allegedly, acted otherwise. Attention is also drawn to the fact that Reagan's speech took place at the time the socialist countries, members of the Warsaw Treaty, advanced a whole series of peaceful initiatives in Prague.

In the opinion of Western political observers, the United States has found itself in a situation in which it is no longer possible to brush aside the peace-loving proposals of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Seemingly oblivious to these initiatives, Reagan stated in his speech that the United States and its partners are expecting serious actions and proposals on the part of the USSR and are ready to discuss proposals which will contribute to the cause of peace. However, this is not deluding anyone. At the same time that plans are being drawn up in the United States for colossal militarization, and while U.S. foreign policy obstinately revolves around the notorious zero option, the USSR has advanced a specific program of measures that will lead to a halt in the arms race and, in the final analysis, the elimination of the threat of nuclear war.

At the end of his speech, Reagan stated the readiness of the United States -- and I quote -- to sit down at the conference table with the Russians to discuss practical measures capable of resolving the problems and leading to a more durable and genuine improvement of relations between East and West. If this is really so, then one can only welcome the U.S. President's utterances. The Soviet Union believes that the path toward mutual talks is open and that our two countries could make an important contribution to the cause of creating a climate of mutual trust, mutual understanding and cooperation in the world.

MEDIA COMMENTS ON REAGAN DEFENSE BUDGET CUTS

Dallas Statement Assessed

LD130433 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] The statement President Reagan made at his meeting with reporters in Dallas last Tuesday has obviously disappointed those Americans who hoped that at least in the next fiscal year the burden of military spending would become less and the money would be switched to meeting their social needs. Announcing certain cuts in the initial draft budget of the Pentagon for 1984, the President admitted that the reductions are not absolutely essential to the major buildup and that they would not affect the set military goals. Our commentary is by Vladislav Kozyakov.

There has been a lot of talk in Washington about the imperative need of reducing United States' military spending in view of such a factor as the expected growth of the budget deficit up to $200 billion or even $300 billion. It is now obvious that all that talk has proved in vain. What President Reagan proposed in Dallas will hardly lessen the financial or economic difficulties confronted by the country since the proposed reduction is too insignificant. Judge for yourself.

In the initial draft budget for the 1984 fiscal year the President named $285 billion of military appropriations. At present he recommends cutting this sum by $11 billion only, and by official estimate the actual reductions in 1984 will be even less, only $8 billion. About one half of the reductions would result from change in forecasts for inflation and fuel prices, and the other half involves scaling back servicemen's proposed pay increases and reducing military training.

In short, the United States' President's statement that the cuts he recommends will not set back the country's defense program can be trusted. Indeed, everything remains as it is. There will be no changes in the rearmament program on which $1.6 trillion is to be spent in 5 years or in the development of various types of first-strike weapons. Nothing is going to affect the super profitable contracts of military industrial corporations for the building of, say, Trident submarines by General Dynamics, which would cost tens of billions of dollars. All this is to remain without changes.

The Reagan administration follows its course for attaining military supremacy and preparing for a nuclear war in which America hopes to gain the upper hand. This is hardly the move the millions of Americans who last November voted for freezing the nuclear arsenals expected the administration to make with regard to the nation's future expenses. This hardly meets the expectations of America's 12 million jobless who connect their hopes for new vacancies with increased federal allocations. As President Reagan's statement in Dallas shows, his administration intends to give further priority to building up nuclear and other weapons. In the next fiscal year both the United States actual and projected military expenditure will by tens of billions of dollars exceed the level of military appropriations endorsed by the Congress for the current fiscal year. So far as the cuts the President announced are concerned, they in fact changed nothing either in the economic or political course of the administration.

Commenting on the cuts as proposed by the President in Dallas, Senator Carl Levin, Democrat from Michigan, said it was not enough and came in the wrong place. But items such as the MX missile, the B-1 bomber and the nuclear aircraft carriers should have been cut rather than pay and training, the senator said.

Weinberger Remarks Viewed

LD122308 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 83

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Aleksandr Korshunov and Oleg Blinov]

[Text] Washington: U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger has announced that he is in favor of reducing the U.S. military budget for 1983-84 by $11.3 billion. The major bourgeois mass news media have reported on this. It is evident that such a step by Weinberger is supposed to convince public opinion that Washington is displaying goodwill in questions of disarmament and is inclined, in response to the latest peaceful initiatives by the Warsaw Treaty countries, to make a counterstep. However, is this how it all is, in fact? It turns out that it is not, because it is a matter of a reduction in the planned budget. And even taking into account the reductions which were mentioned, it will nonetheless exceed the present record military budget. However, judging by a UPI report, even Weinberger himself does not conceal that these fake reductions will not apply to any extent to the military programs for the rearming of America.

TASS: Cuts 'Another Ploy'

LD121412 Moscow TASS in English 1329 GMT 12 Jan 83

["The Pentagon Resorts to Another Ploy -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS -- TASS news analyst Ivan Ablamov writes: U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger announced with pomp at a press conference yesterday the Pentagon's decision to reduce its spending authority under the budget for fiscal 1984 by 11.3 billion dollars, which was immediately publicised by Washington as something very much like a proposal for "reducing military spending." A closer look reveals this is nothing more than another of the Pentagon's ploys. Judging by press reports, they in Washington are not contemplating any cuts in military appropriations. On the contrary, Reagan, as the CBS television network said, proposed a record build-up of military spending in peacetime. In the 1984 fiscal year it will grow, according to press estimates, by 14-15 percent as compared with the current year, to reach an astronomical 285 billion dollars. At that, Weinberger retained the right to demand that "in the event of necessity" Congress allocate additional appropriations for military purposes in the 1984 fiscal year.

Why then the administration needed that swindle, that figure-juggling act to conceal the truth about U.S. military spendings, one may ask. This move is easy to explain away. With its sweet talk about a cut in military allocations the government is clearly trying to silence the critics both in the U.S. Congress and outside it who protest the Washington's policy of squandering tremendous funds on the back-breaking arms race. At the same time this will pave the way for pushing a new huge military budget through Congress in the future.

The purpose of the administration's ploy is to mislead the public, to dampen the intensity of the movement for an end to the arms race and for a freeze on nuclear arsenals -- the movement which gained a tremendous scope throughout the country to Washington's alarm.

By talking about alleged "sacrifices" made by the Pentagon the Reagan administration would also like to create conditions for a new and heavy blow at the material standing of ordinary Americans -- to cut social allocation by 30 billion dollars in the 1984 fiscal year and to effect a new major rise in taxes.

Judging from the first reports coming from the United States, the Reagan administration's maneuvers fail to produce the desire results. The move came under fire from the press, television and a number of representatives and senators. Official Washington will hardly be able to escape strong criticism of its reckless militaristic policy eroding both the nation's economy and security.

TASS REPORTS SECRETARY SCHWEIKER RESIGNATION

LD122006 Moscow TASS in English 1839 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Washington January 12 TASS -- President Ronald Reagan officially announced today the resignation of Richard Schweiker from the post of the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

According to press reports, Schweiker expressed his disagreement over the White House's planned new multi-billion cuts in appropriations for social programmes, although the officially announced reason for his resignation was the secretary's intention to take up employment with the private business.

News analysts do not regard as fortuitous the fact that reshuffles in the administration began soon after the mid-term elections in the United States, at which the Republican Party sustained serious losses caused by the growing discontent among the electorate over the anti-people internal policy of the administration and its militarist course on the international scene.

REPORTS ON DC-8 CRASH REVEAL 'DIFFERENCES'

LD122144 Moscow TASS in English 2046 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] New York January 12 TASS -- An investigation into the causes of yesterday's crash of the DC-8 transport plane belonging to the United Airlines of the USA, which carried containers with radioactive materials, has run into unexpected difficulties, C. Novak, a spokesman for the airline, has told an AP correspondent. A special team rushed to the site of the disaster but the National Transportation Safety Board could not recreate the "full picture" of the accident because the body of the plane had been damaged unusually severely.

The tape from the "black box," recording all the conversations of the crew both with flight control and between themselves, did not contain even a hint of any trouble or deviation from the usual take-off procedure, D. Engen, member of the National Transportation Safety Board, has noted.

In view of the fact that the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission was immediately notified of the crash and that the Federal Aviation Administration urgently demanded that all the passengers and personnel be evacuated from the area of the airport, local observers presume that the radioactive materials aboard the plane could have an immediate relationship to the cause of the explosion.

Spokesmen for the authorities, however, scurried to make reassuring statements that the containers carried small amounts of slightly radioactive materials, which had been preserved intact. The local press, however, points out considerable differences in the statements of these spokesmen as regards the supposed applications of these materials.

Local observers note in this context that these reports add to the tense atmosphere in the areas adjacent to the largest airport of the Michigan State.

ROMANOV MEETS WITH CANADIAN AMBASSADOR IN LENINGRAD

PM121519 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 83 p 1

[LENTASS report: "Reception of Ambassador"]

[Text] Yesterday G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of Leningrad Obkom, received Canadian Ambassador to the USSR G. Pearson at the Smolnyy. During their conversation certain topical issues of the current international situation and of Soviet-Canadian relations were discussed and the need to step up the struggle to curb the arms race and the need for disarmament were noted. The great importance of the Soviet state's new foreign policy initiatives contained in the speech by Yu.V. Andropov, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, at the CPSU Central Committee's November (1982) plenum and in the report entitled "60 Years of the USSR" was stressed.

L.N. Zaykov, chairman of Leningrad Gorispolkom, took part in the conversation.
M.A. Yefimov, USSR Foreign Ministry representative in Leningrad, attended.

U.S.-PAKISTAN MILITARY COOPERATION NOTED

LD130426 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Aleksandr Korolev commentary]

[Text] Besides having technical merit, American-made F-16's are also known to have been always supplied to other countries as a reflection of a certain degree of coordination, as a recipient foreign policy with Washington's aggressive line. For example, all European NATO countries receive these planes, and they are the main American military and political allies. Zionist Israel has long been regarded as an American ally too, and it also has been getting this type of offensive arms. It used F-16s to bomb civilian towns in Lebanon, and for a bandit attack on a nuclear research center in Iraq. Egypt received the right to get these planes after its leaders had taken an open pro-American stand on the Middle East conflict. More than that, the Egyptian leaders have granted the United States military bases on its territory.

The first squadron of F-16's has arrived in Pakistan. Does this mean Washington regards Pakistan as a potential ally? Such a question seems superfluous now because the so-called new relations between the two countries in the area of security were extolled at length during the recent visit to the United States by General Ziaul Haq. The American consent to supply F-16 planes not only confirms what was said in Washington but also gives some idea of the direction the new relations are to develop along. In any case, one thing is clear: The relations are developing in a direction that is beneficial to the imperialist quarters of the United States. Apart from the fact that the United States plans to keep using Pakistan as a continuing launching pad for waging an undeclared war against Afghanistan, there are other considerations of a bigger scale. For example, the press in a number of Asian countries has reported, quoting informed sources, that the United States and Pakistan have signed a secret document which grants Washington the right to make use of Pakistani Air Force and naval bases in cases of need. The same document says there's a need to study possibilities for setting up on Pakistani soil with the assistance of the United States new facilities that the United States Armed Forces may require.

Some practical steps of the recent past confirm the report is reliable. For example, American warships are now making increasingly frequent calls in the port of Karachi for refuelling and for a rest for the crew. Several Pakistani military airfields are being remodelled to be able to accept heavy transport planes which the Pakistani Air Forces does not have yet. Another indication that the Pentagon is having interests in [word indistinct] Pakistan is a report by news agencies that the United States will shortly start setting up on Pakistani territory a number of facilities for a new American Central Command. These facilities are electronic tracking stations, for backing up the operations of the American fleet in the Indian Ocean.

Such are just some [words indistinct] claims of the so-called new relations between the United States and Pakistan in a military political area. They show that Islamabad is already looking over its shoulder at Washington in its actions, heeding American advice and keeping within American instructions. Not surprisingly, Pakistan is one of the first Asian countries to get the F-16's.

RPP COMMENTS ON PAKISTAN'S ARMS BUILD-UP

LD130052 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1330 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Pakistan has placed another military order on the United States. This time it is for the Cobra antitank gunships, Viktor Gradov comments.

THE WASHINGTON POST carried a report alleging that the Indian military command had worked out a plan of a bombers' attack on nuclear targets in Pakistan. The Indian Embassy in the United States and the Foreign Ministry flatly denied the existence of such a plan, rating it as an invention and fruits of imagination. Meanwhile, other American newspapers, let alone Pakistan's mass media, took up the line and let it out on the pages and news bulletins. What made them do this? The reason is obvious. Almost every newspaper in the United States and Pakistan points out the need for Islamabad to obtain more weapons to be able to repel what they term as Indian threats. Actually, they are trying to justify the past and future arms purchases of Pakistan. Hiking military spending by the year, Islamabad has brought it to the level four times as high as in 1971.

Curiously, Pakistan has been building up arms while there is nobody around to threaten its security. In fact its neighbors, India and Democratic Afghanistan, have more than once pledged desire to live in peace and have good relations with it. The same desire has been expressed by Iran. The problem, however, is that Pakistan is being viewed by the United States and its partners through the prism of their own hegemonistic interests. Their aim is to turn that country into an obedient instrument to execute their schemes in Southwest Asia. As it grows more and more dependent on the imperialist powers, Pakistan has by now become a destabilizing factor in the region. Its territory is being used as a base for the imperialists and reactionaries to carry out the undeclared war on Afghanistan. In the meantime, Washington and its allies plan to engage Pakistan's services to conduct subversive actions against other neighbors, India and Iran, whose policies do not suit the White House. This course of events in no way meets the national interests of Pakistan and only leads to more tension in South Asia.

U.S. SEEKS TO HALT INDO-PAKISTANI NORMALIZATION

PM121641 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Jan 83 Second Edition p 5

[S. Bulantsev article under the rubric "Stop: Fabrication!": "Amid the Clamor About the Threat"]

[Text] It has long been known that Washington does not shrink from using any method to achieve its aims. The other day this truth was once again confirmed in THE WASHINGTON POST. The newspaper reported that India's military leaders have allegedly drawn up plans for a bomb strike against Pakistani nuclear projects. The Indian Embassy in the United States, followed by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, came out with a sharp denial. The report was described as "pure invention" and "a figment of someone's imagination."

Let us add: a highly malicious imagination! After all, it is essentially a question of putting India — a peace-loving state with tremendous international prestige -- on a level with the Israeli aggressors, who carried out a piratical raid on Iraqi nuclear projects near Baghdad not so very long ago.

Presumably, those who concocted this vile fabrication would like to kill two birds with one stone. Indian diplomacy is currently making serious efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan. The state of these relations has always had a considerable influence on the political climate throughout South Asia and adjacent regions. The establishment of trust and good-neighborliness between the region's two biggest states -- which Delhi is actively seeking — would eliminate a potential hotbed of tension. That is what Washington does not want, and even fears. Why? Such a turn of events would rob the United States of a military stronghold in South Asia.

Let us recall that the United States, striving to drown the Afghan revolution in blood, has now turned Pakistan into the main bridgehead for the undeclared war against Afghanistan and has concluded a military-political deal worth $3.2 billion with Islamabad. Why does Pakistan need such a quantity of weapons -- a quantity inconceivable for peacetime, far exceeding all reasonable defense needs? And then well-wishers from across the ocean appear here with their armored goods and "intelligence data": You had better buy our Phantoms right away, otherwise India will make a "preemptive bomb strike" against your sites....

Amid the clamor about the threat allegedly hanging over Pakistan from the direction of Indian and Afghanistan, the Pentagon is striving to obtain bases on Pakistani territory, which it intends, in particular, for the gendarme "Rapid Deployment Forces." THE WASHINGTON POST's invention has the aim of nipping the trend toward the normalization of Indian-Pakistani relations in the bud.

The fabrication has another aim too. In March the heads of state and government of the nonaligned countries will meet in Delhi for their next conference. "Look!" THE WASHINGTON POST calls to the nonaligned world. "To whom have you given the honor of hosting the conference? A country which is preparing aggression against its neighbor!" The aim is obvious: to undermine India's prestige in the international arena, first and foremost among developing countries, and "punish" it for a foreign policy course which Washington does not like. The fact that India, which does much to set the tone in the Nonalignment Movement, maintains diplomatic relations with the legitimate government of Kampuchea and occupies an independent stance on Afghanistan is not at all to the White House's liking.

...At one time the United States proclaimed an "even-handed approach" to the countries of South Asia. Recent facts have given Indira Gandhi reason to describe American policy in that region as "biased against India." THE WASHINGTON POST's shameless lie indicates that this bias is continuing to grow.

BRIEFS

DRA EDUCATION DELEGATION LEAVES TASHKENT -- A delegation of officials from the DRA Ministry of Education left Tashkent for Kabul on 9 January. The head of the delegation Miss (Rafshar Kemyar) said the following to a Tashkent radio correspondent: The education officials of the DRA have been able to acquaint themselves with the work of the Uzbek Ministry of Education and with the work done in Uzbek schools and other youth training institutions. What we have seen here will be very useful to us. We shall put into practice what we have observed in Uzbekistan. The horizons achieved in Uzbekistan will help strengthen populist education in the DRA. In addition to the horizons achieved in Uzbekistan in the social and economic fields, we have also been amazed by the sincerity and hospitality accorded to us by the Uzbek people. [Text] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 9 Jan 83 GF]

BUSH'S W. EUROPE TRIP 'DIVERSIONARY PROPAGANDA'

LD121616 Moscow TASS in English 1556 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Washington January 12 TASS -- The White House has announced the forthcoming visit of Vice President George Bush to a number of West European countries and also to Geneva where, according to spokesmen for the administration, he plans to meet the U.S. delegates to the Geneva talks. Some observers wonder in this context why the vice president should plan such a meeting with the U.S. delegates to the Soviet-American talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic arms and on the limitation of nuclear armaments in Europe if this could be done in Washington, where the heads of the two delegations, E. Rowny and Paul Nitze, are staying at the moment. It is believed that this action of the White House has been conceived as a diversionary propaganda ploy to try and distract Western public opinion from the concrete proposals that have lately been made, and to reduce the issue to propaganda ballyhoo and make-believe participation in the meetings of the Geneva disarmament committee.

This is explained by the lack of any real shift in the one-sided position of the United States and it is in this context that the announced visit of Bush to Western Europe, in particular to those countries where the Pentagon plans to deploy the U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles by all means, is viewed.

FRG'S VOGEL GIVES MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE

'We Have More Hopes'

LD121836 Moscow TASS in English 1814 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS -- Remarks by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuriy Andropov on the problem related to medium-range systems are characterised by constructiveness, Hans-Jochen Vogel, member of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), SPD candidate to the post of federal chancellor of the FRG, has declared. This, he told a press conference in Moscow today, is also true with regard to the Prague declaration by the Warsaw Treaty member-states. Hans-Jochen Vogel expressed the hope in this connection that the American side at the Geneva talks will not insist on its original stand. After the recent talks in Washington, he pointed out, he has the impression that the American stand can be set in motion.

The West German chancellor candidate positively assessed the latest proposal by the Warsaw Treaty member-states to conclude with NATO a treaty on mutual non-use of military force and on maintenance of relations of peace. We, he said, favour a serious and constructive consideration of this proposal.

Hans-Jochen Vogel came out in favor of the proposal, contained in the Prague Political Declaration, that the money, released as a result of the reduction in military spending, should be used for purposes of economic and social development, including for assistance to developing countries in this direction.

We would also welcome a positive impulse to the Vienna talks on the reduction of conventional armaments, he said.

Speaking about economic cooperation between the FRG and the USSR, discussed during his conversation with Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Tikhonov, Hans-Jochen Vogel said that both sides gave positive and identical assessment of the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries. We, he stressed, are against trade wars and hindrances to the development of trade and economic relations in the form of any sanctions.

We believe, Hans-Jochen Vogel said, that trade and economic links between the FRG and the USSR serve not only our common interests, but also the cause of universal peace and international stability.

The 1970 Moscow Treaty is the basis of West German-Soviet relations, and it is necessary to continue to fill it with life, the SPD chancellor candidate said. We regard this as one of our major tasks.

I and members of my delegation -- Dr. Egon Bahr and Dr. Hans-Juergen Wischnewski -- are realists, Hans-Jochen Vogel said. After the recent visit to Washington and the current visit to Moscow we have more hopes than before these trips. But further efforts are necessary to realise these hopes. And we are ready to make our contribution to achieve this.

Asked about medium-range missiles, the FRG chancellor candidate declared: We would not like missiles to be targeted on us from the East, neither do we want the deployment of missiles on our territory.

Speaking about the mounting anti-war movement, Hans-Jochen Vogel pointed out that people realise more and more that for the first time in history, weapons may destroy the whole of mankind, all living things on earth. And the realisation of that drives the people who are opposed to the nuclear menace.

Hans-Jochen Vogel fully backed the idea that never again should war start from German soil. I would like to add that contribution to the cause of peace should come from German soil, he said.

Moscow TV Report

LD122256 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Jan 83

[From the Vremya newscast; video report on 12 January press conference in Moscow by FRG's Hans-Jochen Vogel]

[Text] Hans-Jochen Vogel, member of the SPD Presidium and SPD candidate for the post of FRG federal chancellor, met with Soviet and foreign journalists in Moscow today. Speaking to them, he said in particular:

[Begin Vogel recording in German fading into Russian translation] During our stay in the USSR, I had an opportunity to meet with the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. My talk with him lasted more than 2 hours. It was an intensive, frank and fruitful talk. During it we also discussed controversial questions. The meeting with the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers dealt mainly with bilateral economic relations. The main questions which we discussed were problems of ensuring peace and halting the arms race. In this connection I want to stress that we consider the recent proposals by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on medium-range missiles to be timely and constructive. This also applies to the proposals contained in the Prague declaration. I would like to particularly note the importance of the call for accord to be reached on mutual renunciation of the use of force between the NATO and Warsaw Treaty members. We advocate a constructive and serious study of this question and consider that it should be studied rapidly and from a concrete standpoint. [end recording]

Hans-Jochen Vogel went on to answer questions from journalists, in particular a question from a representative of Soviet television:

[Begin recording] [Soviet TV correspondent Mnatsakanov] Herr Dr Vogel, I would like to ask you to speak in slightly more detail about your meeting and conversation with Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. What is your personal and general impression of this conversation? How do you evaluate it?

[Vogel in German fading into Russian translation] I was greatly impressed, first and foremost, by the arguments used during the talk by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and also by the breadth and depth of the information at his disposal. As far as my personal impression is concerned, I can say that during the conversation I developed the impression that this man, who represents one of the greatest states in the world, is completely 100 percent aware of his responsibility for the future of the world, for forestalling a nuclear catastrophe; his responsibility not only for the future of the Soviet people but for all mankind. This is my most important impression. [end recording]

'A Step Forward'

NC121608 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow, Jan 12 (AFP) -- Hans-Jochen Vogel, Social-Democrat candidate for the West German chancellery, said today his meetings with Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov yesterday and with U.S. President Ronald Reagan last week had left him "optimistic" over the future of East-West relations.

In a press conference following a 48-hour visit here, he termed the most recent Soviet disarmament proposals "a step forward," saying it now fell to the U.S. to respond by softening its position on deployment of cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Europe.

Mr. Vogel said he had "more hope" today than before his visits to Moscow and Washington.

He said he was "very impressed" by Soviet leader Andropov, describing him as "a man entirely conscous of his responsibilities: to avoid a nuclear catastrophe, assure the future of his people and that of humanity."

Delegation Leaves for Home

LD121848 Moscow TASS in English 1824 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS -- Hans-Jochen Vogel, member of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and Social Democratic candidate to the chancellor of the Federal Republic, and Egon Bahr, and Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, members of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, have left for home today.

The West Germany guests have visited the USSR at the invitation of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

At the airport they have been seen off by Zinaida Kruglova, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairperson of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies, and other representatives of the Soviet public.

There was among those seeing the guests off Andreas Meyer-Landrut, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the USSR.

FRG REACTION TO PRAGUE PROPOSALS VIEWED

PM121401 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Correspondent Ye. Korolev dispatch: "Serious Dialogue Is Needed]

[Text] Bonn -- After a certain lull because of the Christmas holidays, political life on the Rhine has returned to the stream of heated arguments, doubts and hopes.

And, of course, the main political theme remains the problem of disarmament -- perhaps the only one where no one is indifferent.

The new Soviet peace initiatives put forward by Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the major new peace proposal of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee Conference -- to conclude a treaty on the mutual non-use of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO states -- are being discussed now by all FRG political parties and organizations. The West German press is continuously carrying commentaries on these themes.

The proposals put forward by the participants in the Prague conference have been greeted with fervent approval by progressive circles. "The important new peace initiatives of the USSR and the other socialist countries confirm that socialism and peace are indivisible," the German Communist Party board Presidium stressed in its statement. "There is nothing more important for Communists than to avert the danger of the emergence of the conflagration of thermonuclear war. Europe must not become a new Hiroshima."

As the NEUE RUHRZEITUNG notes, the socialist countries' new peace proposal put forward in Prague deserves the closest attention. It cannot simply be brushed aside since there are no reasons for rejecting this important peace initiative. And here is the opinion of the KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER: "The East is striving for peaceful relations with the West. The Warsaw Pact states are making new moves in that direction."

The USSR's proposals to reduce nuclear weapons in the European zone are enjoying special attention. Moreover, the trend toward a constructive assessment of the Soviet proposals is increasingly clearly prevailing over the attempts by certain FRG circles to blindly follow the reaction from Washington officialdom.

W. Brandt, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD], H. J. Vogel, SPD candidate for the chancellorship, H. Wehner, chairman of the SPD's Bundestag faction, and many others have spoken in favor of a thorough study of the Soviet proposals. J. Rau, SPD deputy chairman and prime minister of the North Rhine-Westphalia Land, who published a long article in the WETZLARER NEUE ZEITUNG, is sharply critical of those who are trying to present the Soviet proposals in the sphere of the reduction of nuclear potentials in Europe as the "consequence of" the West's "hard line." Rau stresses that if the other side's readiness for talks is presented as weakness, there will be no dialogue. According to Rau, the Washington, Paris and London governments should approach the Soviet proposals seriously.

E. Bahr, member of the SPD Presidium, has stated that the Soviet medium-range nuclear arms reduction proposals are "very interesting" and that they should be followed by "movement by the Americans." In Bahr's opinion, the "zero" option on medium-range missiles is feasible only if you take account of the British and French nuclear potentials.

The government coalition parties, where assessments "modelled on those across the ocean" still prevail, have also begun to speak out in favor of a more realistic approach to the Soviet proposals. Thus O. Feldmann, Bundestag deputy and Free Democratic Party military expert, called the Soviet proposals a "step in the right direction," and opposed the "zero" option proposed by the Americans which, in his words, could lead to the breakdown of the Geneva medium-range missile talks. The tendency toward a realistic assessment of the Soviet proposals has begun to appear among Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union politicians.

It cannot be ruled out that this turnround has been dictated to a certain extent by circumstantial considerations: There are Bundestag elections planned for 6 March. But the main point is elsewhere.

As the WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE stresses, "in the year of the possible deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles, it would be wrong to pretend that nothing has happened and at the same time to allege that the proposals put forward by the participants in the Prague conference are just propaganda. On the very eve of the Prague meeting, the East took important practical steps aimed at ensuring peace in the form of the Soviet proposals addressed to the Geneva disarmament talks." Public opinion polls attest to the reluctance of the majority of FRG inhabitants to be at the center of a possible nuclear holocaust through the deployment of new U.S. missiles on their territory. At the same time, the broadest public circles rate highly the advantages that the detente policy has brought to the FRG. And one way or another, these feelings must also be taken into account by West German politicians.

GROMYKO, BELGIAN ENVOY DISCUSS PRAGUE PROPOSALS

LD121732 Moscow TASS in English 1634 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS — Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign affairs minister of the USSR, today received Belgium's Ambassador to the Soviet Union Frans Taelemans at his request.

They discussed some issues of bilateral Soviet-Belgian relations in the perspective of their further development.

Andrey Gromyko drew the ambassador's attention to the new peace initiatives by the Warsaw Treaty member-states, set forward in the Political Declaration of January 5 this year, and, above all, to the proposal to conclude a treaty on mutual non-use of military force and on maintenance of relations of peace between the Warsaw Treaty member-states and the member-states of the North Atlantic alliance.

It was stressed that these proposals by the socialist countries, as well as the Soviet Union's initiatives, advanced by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuriy Andropov in his report on the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR and in other recent speeches, are directed at restricting the race of nuclear armaments in Europe. They represent a real alternative to the threat of nuclear war and correspond to the interests of all European countries, both big and small. It should be made clear that in case the NATO plans to deploy new American medium-range nuclear weapons in some Western European countries are implemented, the situation in Europe would sharply worsen.

Frans Taelemans said that the proposals by the socialist states are being studied with attention by the Belgian Government.

MARCHUK IN FRANCE FOR COOPERATION TALKS

Meets President Mitterrand

LD122008 Moscow TASS in English 1849 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Paris January 12 TASS -- The President of the French Republic Francois Mitterrand received in the Elysee Palace today Guriy Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the state committee of the USSR for Science and Technology, who is heading a Soviet delegation here at the 17th session of the standing mixed Soviet-French commission.

During the conversation that passed in a friendly atmosphere views were exchanged on a wide range of questions of Soviet-French relations, including prospects of further expanding trade and economic ties on a more balanced basis, and also on a number of pressing international problems.

It was stressed from the Soviet side that the safeguarding of peace is the supreme aim of the USSR's foreign policy. The Soviet Union invariably expresses readiness to openly cooperate with all countries that reciprocate. The Soviet Union is consistently pursuing a policy of comprehensively developing relations with France.

Noted from both sides during the conversation was the big importance of the activity of the standing mixed Soviet-French commission which at its regular session in Paris has called for giving an important impetus to the development of the entire complex of trade, economic, scientific and technical ties between the two countries. It was stressed that the expansion of mutually advantageous cooperation between the USSR and France is a substantial element of strengthening peace in Europe.

Talks With Prime Minister

LD130024 Moscow TASS in English 2346 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Paris January 13 TASS -- Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology Guriy Marchuk, who is heading the Soviet delegation to the 17th session of the permanent mixed Soviet-French commission, now held here, was received in Paris yesterday by the French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy.

During their conversation, they discussed in detail questions of bilateral Soviet-French relations. It was pointed out that the recent contacts at different levels between the USSR and France are evidence of a reciprocal interest in further broadening cooperation in the most diverse fields. A mututal intention was expressed to develop and widen the mutually advantageous trade and economic and scientific and technological cooperation which meets the interests of both the USSR and France.

During the meeting, satisfaction was also expressed over the constructive progress of the work of the session of the "big" commission which is one of the effective components of the mechanism of cooperation, which has been in existence between the USSR and France over a number of years. Over the past years, the commission's activity played a prominent role in broadening and steadily increasing the economic, trade and scientific and technological ties between our countries. Much of the Soviet-French cooperation has proved to be useful on the scale of the entire continent, and has been reflected in pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Cooperation Talks Begin

LD130018 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1650 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, 12 Jan (TASS) -- The 17th session of the standing Soviet-French mixed commission began its work today in the French Foreign Trade Center. It was opened by Michel Jobert, French minister of state for foreign trade and head of the French side of the commission. Guriy Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, heads the Soviet delegation at the session.

Addressing the session during the opening ceremony, Michel Jobert, French minister of state for foreign trade, stressed the fact that the commission's work will make a new and significant contribution to the development of economic cooperation between France and the USSR. He also pointed out that multifaceted Soviet-French cooperation in economic, scientific and technical spheres is completely in accord with the interests of France and the Soviet Union, and is playing an important part in deepening the process of detente on the European Continent, a significant factor in safeguarding peace.

The head of the Soviet delegation pointed out in his speech that relations between the USSR and France continue to develop in the sphere of economics and trade; they are doing so on the basis of the extensive and wide experience accumulated by both countries, on the basis of good traditions and just principles of cooperation, and on that of a whole system of intergovernmental agreements and programs embracing virtually all branches of the economy. During the last year alone new and important agreements and contracts were signed, and documents were drafted concerning the implementation of a long-term program to extend economic, industrial and technical cooperation between the USSR and France during the period 1980-90.

He stressed that the Soviet Union is in favor of continued all-round development of contacts with France in economics, science and technology. This, the head of the Soviet delegation pointed out, is our main course. He also expressed the conviction that Soviet-French cooperation will continue to develop successfully on a stable and long-term basis for the benefit of the peoples of both countries and in the interests of strengthening peace in Europe and throughout the world.

Marchuk on Cooperation Talks

LD122018 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] The 17th session of the standing mixed French-Soviet Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation opened in Paris today. The head of the Soviet delegation at the session, Guriy Ivanovich Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, talks about the tasks it faces at the request of our correspondent in France:

[Begin Marchuk recording] The session has to decide on a number of cardinal issues in the further development of our cooperation. Primarily we will hear reports on how the decisions adopted, which follow up the long-term program of economic and scientific-technical cooperation and which were defined up to 1990, are being implemented.

We will talk about the development of industrial cooperation. We will sum up the results of our efforts in the field of developing nuclear energy, in the implementation of the program on the use of space for peaceful purposes, and on the further development of television, primarily color, on the new [word indistinct] technological bases. There are agro-industrial complex problems. Many completely new technical and technological problems have now arisen which demand our attention.

Between our countries, the Soviet Union and France, traditional friendly links have existed for a long time. We cherish these links because France is a very good, traditional partner with which we have done a great deal of work. Our trade turnover with France is rising continually, and despite the well-known fluctuations which are taking place, a general trend for active development shows through. This is especially important now, when in various countries attempts are being made to break the established cooperation in science, technology, as well as in the economic links between countries. This constant, continually developing system of our relations in trade, science and technology provides an example of how, in any circumstances, our economy, science and technology can and must be developed in mutual interests. [end recording]

PCF PROTESTS FRENCH TV AND RADIO POLICY

PM121305 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 83 Second Edition p 5

[Dispatch by correspondent I. Shchedrov: "Against Misinformation"]

[Text] Paris, 5 Jan -- Yesterday the television news programs showed a meeting between representatives of the French Communist Party [PCF] and the leaders of the French television and radio. The PCF delegation was headed by PCF Central Committee Secretary A. Lajoinie. Denouncing the practice of misleading public opinion on a number of important problems observed in the work of television and radio, the Communists demanded that these phenomena cease.

As has already been reported, last month the PCF Politburo published an appeal to French men and women. On the basis of numerous facts which is cited, the appeal showed that television and radio are misinforming public opinion with respect to the situation in the socialist and developing countries and giving the "go-ahead" to far-fetched accusations against the trade unions, the PCF and other leftwing organizations. This statement has been commented on extensively in French newspapers and journals.

Answering journalists' questions after the meeting, A. Lajoinie, head of the PCF delegation, stated that its aim was to lodge a protest against the practice of showing in distorted form the situation in the socialist countries, the situation in the PCF and the policy of the leftwing majority government. Several facts were cited as examples. In particular, having broadcast a report, concocted on the basis of rumors, that the U.S. secretary of state had accused the USSR of being involved in the attempt on the life of the pope, television and radio did not even find the time to familiarize their viewers and listeners with the denial of the falsification issued the same day by U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz.

SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN MOSCOW

LD121312 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Pierre Schori, permanent under secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is spending his first day in Moscow today and will talk with Soviet leaders. Our Moscow correspondent reports that the Soviet Union now seems to be swallowing its annoyance with the [submarine] espionage affair, for instance, in order to try to improve relations with Sweden. Pierre Schori is the highest-ranking Swede to visit the Soviet Union since September 1982 when his predecessor in the post, Leif Leifland, made a similar visit.

COMMENTARY ON NATO ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN EUROPE

LD131124 Moscow in Polish to Poland 1500 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Aleksandr Teterin commentary: "The Militaristic Activity of NATO in Northern Europe"]

[Text] The Political Declaration adopted at the Prague session by the member-states of the Warsaw Pact points out that there is no more important task for the nations than to preserve peace and to halt the arms race. The most important component of the task of liquidating the danger of war and of consolidating universal peace is the strengthening of security in Europe, the document stresses. This stems primarily from the fact that enormous amounts of nuclear and conventional arms have been concentrated on the European Continent, as well as from the existence of the common border of the armed forces of the two military alliances: the Warsaw Pact and the NATO bloc.

It is worth adding that a particular position is accorded northern Europe in the military plans of the United States and Europe. This is justified by the strategic position of the region, which lies in the vicinity of the borders of the socialist states. It is a zone of important sea-and airspace, hence the persistent aspiration of the United States to extend its presence there, to create a bridgehead for the development of the Air Force and Navy and for the deployment of armies.

Activating its military preparations on the northern flank of NATO, the Pentagon and the leaders of the bloc are aiming to involve not just their partners in NATO in their militaristic strategy. As the Swedish press writes, new plans are actively being worked out presupposing the utilization of Swedish territory for transit of NATO weapons. This is confirmed by the spokesman of the board of the state railways of that country. He reported that NATO had applied for the transport of U.S. weapons through the FRG, Denmark and Sweden to the air force base in (?Bodoe) Norway.

The Danish paper DAGENS NYHETER points out that similar transports of ammunition, weapons and spare parts have already taken place through the territory of Sweden and Norway. However, the newspaper states, it is currently a matter of fundamentally new varieties of weapons, tanks and other heavy military equipment and planes. Public opinion has been alarmed by the statement of the head of the Swedish inspection for matters of military equipment, Rear Admiral (?Algenum), who is responsible for issuing permission for transport of this kind. He stated that NATO military equipment is regularly transported through Swedish territory to bases in Norway. In 1982 alone such transports occurred 44 times.

The newspapers are stressing that the NATO and Pentagon strategists, as part of their aggressive plans, accord the main role to Norway, transforming this country into the leading bastion of militaristic endeavors of the bloc in northern Europe. About 75 military sites have been constructed for NATO on Norwegian territory, including over 20 airbases which are used extensively by the military Air Force of the United States and NATO. Over 10 naval bases have also been created at which American nuclear submarines carrying missiles regularly dock. The military budget of Norway is enormous. It amounts to 12 billion kroner. Statistically calculated per inhabitant of this country, the Norwegian military budget -- when compared with that of other NATO states -- occupies the second highest position, after the United States. The Norwegian minister of defense, Anders Sjaastad, states his support for expanding the part played by his country in the NATO moves aimed at fortifying the northern flank of the bloc.

The Pentagon has also begun storing on Norwegian territory the latest American heavy weapons intended as equipment for the 10,000 American Marine infantry soldiers who, according to an American-Norwegian agreement, are to be transferred to Norway if and when a certain crisis situation is deemed by Washington to have arisen. The above-mentioned agreement contains the reservation that it allegedly has no influence toward changing Norwegian policy on the issue of refusing to dispose foreign armies and nuclear arms on the territory of this country in peacetime conditions. But, as certain Scandinavian newspapers write, this proviso is an empty formality, serving only to camouflage the undermining of the momentous principles of foreign policy.

Washington has also imposed agreements of this sort on Denmark. It states that up to 100 American military airplanes can be sited on the territory of Denmark, also for the eventuality of a crisis situation occurring. Statistics also exist on the preparations in this country for the acceptance of NATO reinforcements: 40,000 American soldiers and 14,000 British soldiers who can be transferred to Denmark.

Recent facts prove that the elite of the NATO leadership, and the American military above all, are threatening to extend their influence to Finland too. In this context it is enough to recall that as early as the1960's the notorious plan for operation no 10, which was unearthed in the spring of last year, was worked out at the headquarters of the American forces in Europe.

This plan envisages the conducting of military activities on Finnish territory. According to the plan, the Pentagon envisages the possibility that chemical, biological and tactical nuclear arms might be used in the course of armed engagements.

Beginning militaristic preparations in the north of Europe, NATO and the Pentagon generals above all, are counting on the creation in this region of a situation favorable to the aggressive preparations of NATO, and to the realization of the doctrine at whose basis lies the policy of the position of strength and the adventurist plans for nuclear war.

TEXT OF IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ON GENERAL ROGERS

PM131101 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Jan 83 Morning Edition p 4

[Dispatch by correspondent N. Ivanov under the rubric "International Commentary": "Gross Provocation"]

[Text] Helsinki -- To all appearances Gen B. Rogers, commander-in-chief of the NATO allied armed forces in Europe, is manifestly worried by the growth of anti-NATO sentiments in the north of the continent. Nor can he tolerate the fact that the idea of a nuclear-free zone is acquiring an increasing number of supporters in northern Europe.

That is the background to the emergence of the propagandist "Rogers plan" embodied in a recent interview given by the general to the Finnish newspaper HELSINGIN SANOMAT.

The plan's import is not new and it is geared, like all NATO's propaganda actions, to intimidating people with the "Soviet threat" and sowing hostility among the northern neighbors. The interview is crammed with various fabrications and gross insinuations against the Soviet Union and its policy with respect to the Nordic countries, particularly Finland. The general has set about trying to prove that a "Soviet military threat" looms over Finland and at the same time has allowed himself to voice NATO's "doubts" over the Finns' possible "conduct."

Rogers is not embarrassed by the fact that he is talking about a sovereign state. In a schoolmasterly tone he demands an answer to his questions. Indeed, we should not be particularly surprised at the tone of his arguments: From the Pentagon's viewpoint it is not worth standing on ceremony and choosing your words if you are talking about the global interests of Washington and NATO.

Rogers' statements and their publication in HELSINGIN SANOMAT have generated a stormy reaction in Finland, and this reaction was by no means the one on which NATO's Brussels headquarters were counting.

Finnish Foreign Minister P. Stenback advised the U.S. general to familiarize himself with the principles of Finland's foreign policy before making risky statements. "You have no grounds for doubting the Soviet Union's friendly and peace-loving course," Defense Minster J. Saukkonen noted. L Sutela, commander-in-chief of the Finnish Armed Forces, dismissed Rogers' fabrications just as resolutely.

Finnish newspapers assessed Rogers' revelations as "political speculation" and "flagrant provocation." There are not grounds for doubting the Soviet state's peace-loving policy and the Soviet Union is not threatening Finland -- that is the conclusion reached by Finnish press organs. The reaction of other Scandinavian newspapers was just as unambiguous. The Swedish press assessed the NATO general's statements as an attempt to aggravate relations between the north European countries and to create tension in the region. The Norwegian newspaper DAGBLADET describes them as "political twaddle." An observer in another Norwegian newspaper, AFTENPOSTEN, urged Rogers to display responsibility in instances relating to political questions within the competence other states.

Virtually not a single politician in solidarity with Rogers was to be found in north Europe. This is an obvious sign that the act of provocation by the Brussels strategists has failed. Even Washington was obliged to dissociate itself from the statements by the NATO forces' commander in chief in Europe.

This is not the first time that NATO generals have undertaken provocative attacks aimed at creating on northern Europe a situation favoring the bloc's militarist designs. These undertakings have usually ended in discomfiture. The present act of provocation, which bears the imprint of the atmosphere of cold war, has also obviously failed.

PORTUGUESE CP SPOKESMAN ON GOVERNMENT CRISIS

LD122358 Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Lisbon January 12 TASS -- The Political Commission of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party has discussed the situation in the country in the light of the continuing government crisis.

Member of the Politcommission and Secretariat of the Party Central Committee Octavio Rodrigues Pato told newsmen after the meeting that "the further stay in power of the right-wing Democratic Alliance Parties threatens Portugal with greater degradation of the political and socio-economic situation, worse conditions of life and work of the masses." The dragging government crisis, he stressed, is leading to the aggravation of all national problems which demand immediate solution. Octavio Pato pointed out that it is through the fault of the ruling alliance that laws on the State Budget and the Development Plan for 1983 have not as yet been adopted. In order to overcome the crisis it is necessary to dissolve parliament and hold early parliamentary elections, which, undoubtedly, will pave the way for resolving complicated national problems and ensure conditions for defending the interests of the working people and advancement of Portugal along the road of democracy, freedom and social progress, Octavio Pato said in conclusion.

TRUD INTERVIEWS FORMER NATO GENERAL PASTI

PM121645 [Editoral Report] Moscow TRUD in Russian on 8 January carries on page 3 a 1,200-word interview with Nino Pasti entitled "As Conscience Prompted" by correspondent V. Prokofyev, in which the Italian senator and former NATO general explains how he came to support the peace movement. In his opinion NATO's decision to deploy new types of nuclear missiles in Europe is a direct attempt to obtain nuclear arms superiority over the Soviet Union. He places all the blame for the arms race on the United States. He makes the point that he is "not alone" in his disquiet and mentions the memorandum on the arms buildup sent to the United Nations by 3 retired generals and admirals from NATO countries, of which he was one.

MARINES IN BEIRUT 'CONCEALING ISRAELI EXCESSES'

LD122252 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Correspondent Leonid Rassadin reports from Beirut]

[Text] Deserted streets, closed shops, schools and institutions and forsaken fruit orchards describe the area of Ash-Shuwayfat in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital which is occupied by the Israeli interventionists. Today, other journalists and I visited this area adjoining Beirut International Airport. Along the highway there were Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers. Some roads had been shut off by the occupiers.

According to the Beirut press, Israeli troops in Ash-Shuwayfat have made advances in one of the sectors. This is taking place quite close to the position occupied by U.S. troop subunits of the so-called multinational force. We appealed to the U.S. Marine command with a request that we be permitted to film in the area. However, Captain (Day), the press liaison officer, replied with a categorical refusal. What was the reason for such an attitude of ill will by the U.S. Marine command toward journalists? As we were told by Captain (Day), we were primarily refused because we were Soviet correspondents. But what is the U.S. miltary command hiding? In accordance with an agreement reached earlier, it should exercise full control over this area. It is evidently attempting to conceal the truth -- namely, that the Israeli interventionists are committing excesses right under our noses of the U.S. Marines.

In conversation with us, the inhabitants of Ash-Shuwayfat informed us that over the past few days the Israeli occupiers in this sector had made mass arrests among the peaceful population. Does this mean that the U.S. Administration is now openly protecting the interventionists who have established a cruel regime of terror on the Lebanese lands they have seized?

ISRAEL SEEKS 'PERMANENT PRESENCE' ON WEST BANK

LD130052 Moscow TASS in English 1508 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus January 12 TASS -- The Begin government started a new campaign for intensively settling strategic areas of the occupied Arab territories on the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza sector in order to ensure Israel's "permanent presence" on the captured Arab lands. Tel Aviv's annexationist plans provide for more than a two-fold increase in the number of Israeli settlers on the West Bank. The new Zionist outposts are built on a large scale, the old settlements are widened and made more comfortable -- the Israeli authorities do not stint funds on this campaign, knowing that their Washington patrons will further give them lavish aid.

In the current fiscal year the United States will increase the volume of its military-economic aid to Tel Aviv to reach 2,600 million dollars, thus encouraging the Zionist hawks to further expansionism and colonisation of Arab lands. They in Tel Aviv never concealed that the annexation of the occupied Arab territories is done with American funds. And reproaches, which Washington from time to time addresses to its "strategic ally" to that score, are nothing more than a propaganda ploy designed to bring down the wave of indignation among world public. It is precisely because Tel Aviv is sure of U.S. support that it throws the challenge to the world community and is leading step by step to complete annexation of the occupied Arab territories.

'ARAFAT CONTINUES VISIT, MEETS WITH LEADERS

Talks With Andropov, Others

LD121904 Moscow TASS in English 1739 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Tass] Moscow, January 12 TASS -- A meeting was held in the Kremlin today between the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuriy Andropov, member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Foreign Minister of the USSR Andrey Gromyko, alternate member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Boris Ponomarev and a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat.

During the talk, held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, a detailed exchange of opinions took place on the situation in the Middle East. 'Arafat told about the heroic rebuff given to the Israeli aggressors by the Palestinian and Lebanese patriots. He expressed warm gratitude to the Soviet Union for its active support of this struggle, and spoke highly of the positions held in the past and now by the CPSU and the Soviet state with respect to the Palestinian people.

The meeting's participants strongly denounced Israel's continuing aggression against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples, its terror and repressions on the occupied Arab territories, and its attempts to impose on Lebanon by way of military blackmail capitulatory terms in order to consolidate the results of its rapacious attack on that Arab state.

It was stressed that responsibility for the criminal aggressive actions against the Arabs, committed by Israel, is fully shared by the United States which encourages the aggressor and renders it all possible assistance and support.

Both sides confirmed their determination to strive for a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, an inalienable part of which should be the exercise of the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and creation of an independent state of their own.

A constructive road to this is opened by the Soviet proposal to convene an international conference on the Middle East which is to be attended by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the only lawful representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with orders.

Expressed from the Soviet side was the positive attitude to the principles of solving the Palestine problem and of the Middle East settlement as a whole that were approved by the all-Arab conference in Fes. It was stated that the USSR will further give support to the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in their struggle for their freedom and independence.

Both sides noted the importance of the cohesion of all Arab states and peoples in the defence of their independence and sovereignty, their vital interests from the expansion of Israel and the neocolonialist policy of imperialism.

On behalf of the Arab people of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat expressed profound gratitude ot the Soviet Union for its permanent disinterested assistance to the Palestinians, and reaffirmed the PLO's principled line of developing friendship and cooperation with the USSR.

The meeting was attended: on the PLO side -- by Chairman of the National Council of Palestine Khalid al-Fahum, Members of the PLO executive committee Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Ahmad al-Yamani.

Participants on the Soviet side also included Assistant to the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Andrey Aleksandrov, chief of the International Information Department of the CPSU Central Committee Leonid Zamyatin, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR Georgiy Kornyenko, Deputy Chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee Karen Brutents, and member of the Board of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR Oleg Grinevskiy.

Dinner Hosted by Gromyko

LD121908 Moscow TASS in English 1818 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS -- Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Andrey Gromyko gave dinner today in honour of the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

The dinner was attended by alternate member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Boris Ponomarev, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Ziya Nuriyev and other officials.

During the dinner, Andrey Gromyko and Yasir 'Arafat exchanged friendly toasts.

On the same day, Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting with the leaders of Soviet public organizations.

On behalf of the millions of Soviet people united in those orgnaization, the speakers expressed their profound solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people for freedom and independence.

Yasir 'Arafat cordially thanked the Soviet Union for the big assistance and support given to the Palestinian patriots in the most difficult time for them.

The Palestinian people, he said, found itself the target of a well-planned aggression designed to annihilate our liberation movement in several days. The whole of Lebanon was made into a testing ground for testing advanced U.S. weaponry. Palestinians and Lebanese fell victim to the genocide condemned by the world public.

The aggressors, however, failed to achieve their plans, the guest stressed. Despite big sacrifices and losses, the PLO emerged from the heavy struggle even more strengthened.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed his firm confidence in the victory of the rightful cause of the Palestinian people.

13 Jan Press Conference

LD131122 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1050 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (TASS) -- The meeting between the PLO delegation and Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other Soviet leaders took place in an atmosphere of comradeship and friendship, which characterize the special relations linking the Palestinian and Soviet peoples. Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the PLO delegation, said this today at a press conference in Moscow during his brief working visit to the USSR. Yasir 'Arafat added: We, as always, received from the Soviet leadership a positive reaction and complete understanding of all matters on which talks were held.

During the meeting, the Soviet side again expressed its unalterable support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights, including the right to return to their native land, to self-determination and the creation of their own independent state.

In the name of the PLO Executive Committee and the entire Palestinian people, 'Arafat said: we expressed our deep gratitude to the Soviet Union for its help and support of the Palestinian people's just cause.

Yasir 'Arafat underlined that the United States has no intention at all toward achievement of a political settlement of the Middle East problem. This is obvious, he said, because anyone who really wants to achieve this must undo the main knot and solve the central problem: the Palestinians. When the Camp David deal had been concluded, Yasir 'Arafat continued, Washington maintained that the 1973 war was the last one in the Middle East and that there would be no further conflicts there. However, wasn't the war unleashed by Israel against Lebanon with the full support of the United States last summer the lengthiest war in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict? Weren't the harshest crimes committed during that war, including such as had been branded at the Nuremberg trial of the chief fascist criminals as large-scale genocide?

We, Yasir 'Arafat continued, do not demand the impossible but we only insist on the observance of international legalities, which confirm the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. However, the United States rejects this international right.

Relations With USSR

LD121522 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] A delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization is staying in Moscow on a brief working visit. It is led by the chairman of the organization's Executive, Yasir 'Arafat. In an inteview given for the Soviet press, the Palestinian leader dealt with the situation in the Middle East, prospects for a settlement in the region and Palestinian-Soviet relations.

In the opinion of Yasir 'Arafat, the firm and decisive position of the world community opposing aggressive plans of Israel, which are backed and supported by the United States, can contribute to a solution of the Middle East question. The American Administration, the PLO leader said, is giving an unlimited support to the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and the Lebanese peoples. Bloodsheds in Lebanon were committed with the blessing and help of the United States. It is known that the plan of this aggression was prepared by the former American state secretary Alexander Haig. This means that the massacre in Lebanon was planned in America and was carried out with her approval. More than 72,000 Lebanese and Palestinians suffered in the war in Lebanon along with 5,000 victims of the massacre in Sabra and Shatila, brutally killed in a matter of a few hours.

In reference to ways that may help resolve the conflict, Yasir 'Arafat said that the top-level Arab conference in Fes worked out the plan of a peaceful and just settlement in the Middle East. It set up a committee of seven, a delegation of which was expected to visit a number of countries, discuss the settlement plan there and hear their opinions of it. The delegation visited the United States but, Yasir 'Arafat recalled, the American Administration was against the participation of the Palestinian representative in it. During the talks in Washington the United States insisted on its previous stand which ignores the main thing -- that is, the Palestinian question, including the return of the Arab territories and the right of the Palestinian Arabs to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

The delegation then went to Moscow where it held successful talks with the Soviet leaders who stated that the Soviet Union's stand on a Middle East settlement was, in fact, identical to the plan worked out by the Fes conference.

The Soviet side reaffirmed that the Soviet Union's position was firm and invariable and was aimed at supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs, including the return of the captured territories, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The PLO leader went on to say that the Palestinian and the Soviet peoples are bound with the ties of longstanding and close friendship. The Soviet Union has always been upholding the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. This support was displayed on the international scene in the form of well-known Soviet initiative. At the time of the Israeli aggression, the Soviet Union was invariably helping the Palestinian people. I personally, Yasir 'Arafat said, maintain prominent contacts with the Soviet leadership. My people, Yasir 'Arafat declared in an interview for the Soviet press, will never forget the Soviet Union's position, highly appreciated by the entire Arab world.

PLO-Jordan Confederation

NC131212 Paris AFP in English 1139 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow, Jan 13 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union would approve the creation of a confederation between an independent Palestinian state and Jordan, visiting Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat said today.

Mr 'Arafat told a press conference here that Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov had said Moscow would "approve anything that is in the interest of the Palestinian people."

This included possible "relations of confederation" between an independent Palestinian state and Jordan.

Mr 'Arafat said he told the Soviet leader at a meeting here yesterday that both he and Jordan's King Husayn favored such a confederation, to be established after a simultaneous referendum in Jordan and the future Palestinian state.

EGYPT RELATIONS, CAIRO 'RESERVATIONS' VIEWED

LD111938 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 11 Jan 83

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program, written by A. Zlatorunskiy]

[Text] Egyptian statesmen -- the president of the republic, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and others -- have recently made statements to Egyptian and foreign information media, and also to the masses, in which they dealt in some form or other with Soviet-Egyptian relations. It is possible, without doubt, to give a positive assessment to these statements, which express the desire of the Egyptian authorities to normalize and broaden Soviet-Egyptian relations.

In its relations with other countries, the Soviet Union always proceeds from the desire to develop and improve them by all means on the basis of the principles of respecting sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. This totally applies to Egypt, and Cairo is well aware of this. Therefore it is odd that the statements made recently by Egyptian officials with regard to their desire to improve Soviet-Egyptian relations should be accompanied by constant reservations, the meaning of which can be summed up as being that the process of the improvement of relations should have no negative effect on Egyptian-American special relations or on the strengthening of peace with Israel. Some officials go as far as accusing the Soviet Union of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and of dictating to them a course which they must take -- an automatic repetition of alleged excuses clearly acquired from American papers.

The Soviet Union does not tell any other country with whom and how its relations should be conducted, considering this to be a question of sovereignty for all peoples and countries.

But it is logical to expect Egypt, the major Arab state, to pursue a more independent policy -- the policy of a nonaligned state, which it considers itself to be.

VOLSKIY: IRANIAN REVOLUTION AT 'CROSSROADS'

PM121427 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No. 2, 7 Jan 83 pp 13-15

[D. Volskiy article: "Iran: Revolution at the Crossroads"]

[Text] It is with invariable sympathy for the Iranian people and sympathy for their aspirations that Soviet people watch the turbulent and contradictory events taking place in and around that country. They rejoice at everything that strengthens Iran's independence and good-neighborliness between it and the USSR and view with bitterness whatever impedes the development of the two countries' friendship.

The course toward such friendship is a constant and principled line of Soviet policy that also accords with Iran's national interests, as practice has shown. Let us recall that back in 1921, immediately after the signing of the Treaty on establishing friendly, equal relations with the young Soviet Russia, Tehran was able to annul the Anglo-Iranian agreement, which placed the country in a position of subordination to London. Thereafter, Soviet people always showed solidarity with the Iranian people's struggle for their rights, something that was vividly expressed in the way in which the USSR greeted the overthrow of the shah's regime in 1979. Millions of Soviet people saw the Iranian revolution as a triumph of justice and a manifestation of the law-governed, onward march of history. People in the Soviet Union realized and continue to realize the distinctive nature and specific peculiarities of this revolution. In relations with Iran, as with any other country, the USSR proceeds from the principles of complete equality and noninterference in internal affairs. Its last desire is to foist on the Iranians some kind of "model" for the solution of their problems. It is for them and them alone to decide where their country, which is now experiencing an extremely complex period, should go next.

A 4-Year Road

However, 4 years ago, when crowds of people were besieging the palaces and barracks of Tehran, everything looked considerably simpler. By then the monarchical dictatorship of Mohammed Reza Pahlavi was evoking nationwide anger. Not only by its stifling of elementary civil rights and political freedoms, not only by the atrocities of the SAVAK secret police, which the country is scarcely likely ever to forget. Disconent that penetrated the masses' consciousness as deeply, and maybe even more deeply, was caused by the shah's accelerated implantation of capitalism, and the neocolonialist version of capitalism at that: involving the dominance of transnational corporations and a narrow stratum of local compradors, involving the ruin of millions of peasants and small entrepreneurs, involving attempts to artificially foster the "Western way of life." The shah's Iran was also a military bastion of imperialism: The billion-dollar weapons purchases and 40,000-50,000 American military advisers were also inseparable from the regime's chosen path.

But this path was bound to prompt more vigorous opposition in a country with an ancient distinctive culture and with age-old Islamic traditions than it would have in many other developing states. This eventually took the form of a rising by the broadest and most heterogeneous social strata: ranging from yesterday's peasants who had become an urban lumpenproletariat to the traditional bazaar traders, from oilfield workers to the shi'ite clergy, whose influence the shah had tried to undermine.

It was precisely the Shi'ite Muslim clergy (the supreme religious authorities are the ayatollahs and the 300,000 mullahs) that headed the anti-shah revolution, the mosques became a kind of headquarters of that revolution and Khomeyni became both its leader and its generally recognized symbol.

Of course, the Islamic tinge of the revolution is not a law of the era in the East, as enthusiasts for the "Muslim renaissance" sometimes claim, but a phenomenon stemming from a whole series of objective factors: the weakness of Iran's leftwing forces, which had been bled dry by repression, the longstanding ban on any political life, and finally, the relative closeness to the people of the Shi'ite clergy, who had of old been hostile to secular monarchical power. But, it turned out, it is one thing to struggle against the government and quite another to stand at its helm.

The first task of any revolution is to clear the ground for building the edifice of a new society. In this sense much has been done in Iran: The American advisers have long since been expelled, the military agreements with the United States have been broken, and the Pentagon's intelligence centers, which worked on the whole region, have been eliminated. Banks, insurance companies and a number of heavy industry enterprises have been nationalized, which has ended the dominance of foreign monopoly capital and the Iranian financial groups associated with it. Certain priority measures have been taken in the social sphere too: The official minimum wage has been more than doubled, and committees to supply the poor with food and also for the elimination of illiteracy and for the "country's development" have been created. A law on a 44-hour work week has been approved. The lands of the shah's family and its minions have been confiscated. Bills on an agrarian reform and on nationalizing foreign trade were formulated and eventually approved by the Majlis.

All these measures, which were mostly taken in 1979-1980, confirmed the deeply popular character and anti-imperialist thrust of the Iranian revolution. And although they did not transcend the limits of bourgeois democratic reforms, they could thereafter still have served as the starting point for extremely radical anticapitalist transformations. Using Khomeyni's words, it can be said that a real opportunity had emerged to defend the "people in the hovels from the people in the palaces." But this would have been inseparable from the implementation of another of his guidelines -- on the "war against America and its minions, who have secretly infiltrated our ranks"....

Mullahs Against Mullahs

We will not conjecture what specifically the imam meant. He may have meant the former President Bani-Sadr, who had emigrated from the country, and the other leaders of the liberal bourgeoisie, which had been defeated in the struggle with the Muslim clergy. But it is also quite possible to apply Khomeyni's words to the considerable section of the Shi'ite clergy themselves that was scared by the prospect of the radicalization of the revolution and, with the passage of time, has increasingly displayed a desire to curb it -- if not reverse it. This is clearly evident even from the public statements of figures in the ruling Islamic Republican Party and from the sermons of certain clergymen, particularly during the discussion of an issue like agrarian legislation, which is a burning issue for Iran, where 50 percent of the peasants have only 1.6 percent of the land while the landowners, who include many conservative mullahs, own much of the best land. It was they who ensured that the agrarian bill approved by the Majlis was blocked by the Council for Compliance With Islamic Norms. The same fate befell the bill on nationalizing foreign trade. Here too, self-seeking class interests were involved -- no longer those of the landowners, but those of the big merchants, who traditionally finance the section of the Muslim clergy that is linked with trading capital.

Reports have appeared in the foreign press that the Hojjatiyeh Society, which was created back in the fifties but which lately has become markedly more active, is behind this political tendency. The conservative wing of the clergy that is united in the society and its secular supporters, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, "have secured power in the ministries and even greater influence in the religious courts." "So far as is known," the paper reported 13 April 1982, "members of the Hojjatiyeh Society constitute a majority in the Islamic Republic Party and wield influence... in the administration for the struggle against corruption, which considers crimes such as the drinking of wine. Hojjatiyeh supporters demand that women rigorously comply with religious rules, and in particular that they wear Muslim headdress."

But, of course, their activity is not confined to this. More serious means designed to divert the people's attention from the pressing problems are also used. The hand of the rightwing clergy can also be felt both in the continuation of the fratricidal war against Iraq and in the fact that recently, Islamic courts have, as a rule, passed extremely mild sentences on members of the monarchical opposition, whereas adherents of leftwing views can expect no mercy from them. Nor is it a secret who is behind the constant attempts to outlaw the Iranian People's Party (Tudeh) and other progressive organizations. The provenance of the anti-Soviet insinuations is also clear.

At the same time, it is obvious that this whole line on the part of the conservative clergy is bound to disappoint, to put it mildly, those who believed that the overthrow of the shah's regime would create practical opportunities to solve the problems facing the country and would really ease the situation of the masses. Disappoint the working class, above all, the oilfield working people, the progressive students, members of the intelligentsia advocating the building of an advanced society of social progress, and finally, those mullahs among Khomeyni's supporters who are close to the people, live among them and live for their interests. Can these social forces that took an active part in the anti-shah revolution be ignored with impunity?

It is true that they are by no means united and operate from what are sometimes different standpoints. And on the whole the disposition of forces in the country is extremely complex and the confrontation between tendencies is not proceeding in a straight line, it is intricate and is developing more in a hidden, zigzag fashion. But in terms of its internal tension the emergent confrontation is perhaps potentially more acute than the dramatic confrontation that flared up 18-24 months ago between the clergy and bourgeois liberal circles. Although there were bomb blasts back then, it was chiefly a matter of a power struggle between two groups of the privileged stratum. But today, class contradictions are being exposed and the silhouettes of "hovels and palaces" are emerging more and more clearly at the [opposite] poles of the political spectrum.

In this situation it is now at least a year since the American press, as though at the wave of someone's hand stopped condemning those selfsame "ayatollahs and mullahs" against whom it had virtually been urging physical violence only a little while before. As for U.S. statesmen, in general they now prefer not to mention Iran. Not, of course, because a metamorphosis has occurred whereby imperialist circles have suddenly come to terms with the Iranian revolution and have lost interest in a country that for many years was an extremely important strategic bridgehead for them. Quite the reverse. In Washington's global military-political strategy, increasing importance is attached to restoring the U.S. positions in Iran in some form or other, as much importance as was attached, say, to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which, as is well known, paved the way for American Marines to enter the country. Joseph Churba, who heads the Center for International Security, which is close to the current administration, recently actually made the following statement: "The result there (in Lebanon) is less important compared with the Persian Gulf, which is the epicenter of world politics."

Washington's New Gambles

Churba clearly intimates what kind of politics he means -- reactionary politics, which are closely linked with the U.S. schemes in Europe and other parts of the world and with the Reagan administration's general imperialist course. It is not enough for Washington to want to keep control of the extremely rich oil deposits of the Persian Gulf. It forms part of Washington's calculations, and this has repeatedly been said for all to hear, to transform this vast region, like Europe, into a potential "theater of military operations." The United States is already trying to create the preconditions for this. First, it is seeking to take advantage of the continuing Iranian-Iraqi war, which is costing the two countries' peoples increasing loss of life and destruction, undermining their ability to effectively withstand the intensifying imperialist pressure. Second, Washington is planning, with the help of the Pakistani military regime, to still further fan the undeclared war against Afghanistan, in which it would like to involve Iran more extensively.

Third, the American militarists are preparing the ground for establishing their own military presence in the Middle East, especially the Persian Gulf zone. Practical steps in this direction have already been taken, as is well known: Remember, for instance, the deliveries to Saudi Arabia of aircraft with the AWACS system, which enables the Americans to watch the situation in regions adjoining that country, and the maneuvers with the participation of the "Rapid Deployment Force" off the shores of Oman, where in December the force rehearsed an amphibious landing operation. And now, as of the New Year, the decision to create a so-called U.S. Central Command, whose sphere of operation officially extends to almost 20 Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf countries, enters into force. Iran is among those countries.

"The stakes are high," THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote back in March of last year," so the United States and other Western countries are organizing secret operations. The United States is financing Iranian emigres who have been brought together in paramilitary detachments in eastern Turkey, not far from the border with Iran, although Turkey denies this. In addition, the United States is financing the activities of Iranian emigres in Iran itself and outside." However, it is clear from that same article that the Americans were trying even then to expand their social base in Iran, gambling not only on pro-shah elements, but also on the conservative wing of the Muslim clergy.

In early 1982 a report containing a "prediction" that clearly expressed the U.S. objectives in Iran for the period "after Ayatollah Khomeyni" was submitted to A. Haig, then U.S. secretary of state. "In the initial period," the report said, "extreme rightwing Islamic elements will retain power. Then the Armed Forces will gradually begin to play a more important role. What happens then depends on the circumstances."

The United States is trying to create what are for it favorable "circumstances" by encouraging rightwing Muslim forces in Iran. American-Iranian trade is growing, without publicity but pretty rapidly. And the change of tone on the part of the U.S. news media, which try to avoid recalling either the hostages affair or the provocative operation to "rescue" them, speaks for itself. Finally, the silence of Washington statesmen, who seem to have completely forgotten Iran, is also extremely eloquent.

Washington is clearly afraid of destroying the as yet extremely fragile beams underpinning the political edifice designed with its secret patronage: the alliance between certain elements in the army elite, which has strengthened its positions during the war against Iraq, and the conservative wing of the Muslim clergy, which controls important levers of power.

It looks as though the proshah emigres are also assigned a role of considerable importance in these plans: It is not out of charity that the United States is continuing to finance them: All this leaves no doubt that what is essentially a restoration [restavratorskiy] deal, a deal behind the back of the Iranian people, is being prepared. A deal that can benefit only that people's enemies and bar the way to the implementation of their national and social aspirations. Ultimately, this is fraught with the forcible return of the country to the path of dependent, neocolonialist development so resolutely rejected by the Iranians in 1979.

...so 4 years after the overthrow of the shah's regime, the Iranian revolution finds itself at a complex and dangerous crossroads. This is natural in a way, if you consider the amorphousness of the Islamic slogans under which the revolution developed and the class heterogeneity of the forces that took part in it during the initial stages. Its future development largely depends on whether truly people's forces in Iran -- including leftwing democratic organizations, the millions of orthodox Muslims and many of their clergy -- can find a basis for unity of action, for unity in the name of implementing the pressing socioeconomic transformations, in the name of defending the country's independence, gained with such difficulty, and in the name of satisfying the elementary needs and aspirations of the working people who took such an active part in this truly people's revolution that has stopped halfway. The consistent political, antimonarchical and anti-imperialist revolution has not developed into a social revolution and is at the crossroads.

In this difficult situation for Iran, I want to stress once again: No matter how the fate of this nearby, neighboring country turns out, its people, talented and industrious, can always rely on the good-neighborly policy of the Soviet Union, which invariably respects Iran's independence, sovereignty and identity.

TIKHONOV RECEIVES CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

SFRY's Planinc

PM121517 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Dec 82 Morning Edition p 7

[Text] To Comrade Nikolay Aleksandrovich Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

On the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR I send you, the USSR Council of Ministers and the friendly peoples of the USSR the warmest congratulations and wishes for all-around progress in the continued building of socialism on behalf of the SFRY Federal Executive Council and on my own behalf.

In the last 60 years the Soviet Union has achieved considerable results in building socialism which have placed it among the world's most developed countries. Yugoslavia's working people, peoples and ethnic groups sincerely rejoice at these achievements by the friendly peoples of the USSR.

I take advantage of this opportunity to express the confidence that the friendly relations and the all-around equal Yugoslav-Soviet cooperation based on the principles contained in the jointly adopted documents and constituting the firm foundation of those relations will continue to develop successfully in the interests of our two countries' peoples, of the preservation of peace and of socialism and progress throughout the world.

Milka Planinc, president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council

DPRK Premier

PM121515 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Dec 82 Morning Edition p 7

[Text] To Comrade N.A. Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

I send you ardent congratulations and greeetings on the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR -- a significant red-letter day for the Soviet people.

Since the formation of the USSR the Soviet people have successfully implemented the difficult tasks of the industrialization of the country and the collectivization of agriculture, have fulfilled a number of 5-year plans and have transformed the Soviet state into a socialist country possessing mighty economic and defense strength and developed science and technology.

We rejoice at the brilliant successes that the Soviet people have achieved in the 60 years since the creation of the USSR as though they were our own and we ardently wish them even greater successes in fulfilling the 11th 5-Year Plan outlined by the 26th CPSU Congress.

I take advantage of this opportunity to express the confidence that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries -- Korea and the Soviet Union -- will continue to strengthen and develop even more and I wholeheartedly wish you new successes in your work directed toward the country's prosperity.

Yi Chong-ok, premier of the DPRK Administrative Council

SRV'S LE DUAN ADDRESSES 21 DECEMBER SESSION

PM101543 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 82 Second Edition p 4

[Speech delivered by Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at the 21 December Kremlin meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the USSR]

[Text] Esteemed members of the presidium!

Dear comrades and friends!

During the days of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation, the gaze of all progressive mankind is turned toward the first country of socialism with a sense of profound faith and admiration. Sharing these common sentiments, our delegation, on behalf of the Communist Party, state and people of Vietnam, convey our warmest congratulations from this lofty rostrum to the glorious CPSU headed by esteemed Comrade Andropov and to the peoples of the great Soviet Union. (applause)

After the victory of the October Revolution, the formation and rapid growth of the USSR was a very important event of world historic significance. Under Communist Party leadership, the voluntary and genuinely equitable union of the peoples of the USSR was an unassailable fortress against which all imperialism's attack foundered. This union of the peoples defended the socialist state, made a decisive contribution to saving mankind from the fascist holocaust, successfully built developed socialism, began blazing the trail toward a communist society and ushered in the era of man's conquest of space.

The unity of all nationalities in the Soviet Union based on the Leninist nationality policy has opened up unprecedented capabilities for each nationality to bring into full play its creative power and its finest traditions and provided favorable conditions for all fraternal nationalities in the union to help one another speed up their advance to socialism. No other country has in so short a historical period been able to raise the standard of all nationalities in the country to a common level of all-round development as the Soviet Union. Like a garden full of blossoms and scent, the Soviet Union today is a harmonious bloc of political, social and ideological unity in which every nation and ethnic group has scaled the heights of civilization by leaps and bounds.

The great victory of the October Revolution and the brilliant achievements of the Soviet Union over the past 60 years have set a marvellous example of the successful solution to the class and nationality problems in the revolution, a victory gained under the banner of socialism and national independence on a path illuminated by Marxist-Leninist teaching.

Dear comrades and friends! The October Revolution and the founding of the USSR marked the beginning of a new stage in mankind's history -- the transition from mutual competition and expansion to new relations among the peoples, relations of friendship, peace, cooperation and mutual assistance.

Together with the founding of the USSR and the world socialist system, a new relationship among nations has taken shape, closely uniting with the socialist system with the Soviet Union as the mainstay are the broad national liberation movement encompassing almost all the countries kept backward by colonialism, old and new, and the vigorous movement of the working class and other laboring masses for democracy and social progress in the developed capitalist countries. This is a striking trait and also an invincible force of our time in which 'proletarians of all countries and all oppressed peoples unite' in response to the famous appeal by the immortal V.I. Lenin.

Closely combining her growing strength with the force of the attack of the three revolutionary currents of our era, the Soviet Union has played and is playing a decisive role in changing the balance of forces in the world in favor of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

From the Peace Decree promulgated in the first days of the Soviet power to the Peace Program of the Eighties, the Soviet Union has unrelentingly worked for peace and security among nations, the greatest good and most profound aspiration of the millions and millions of people on our planet.

Our party and state fully support the Leninist foreign policy and the Soviet Union's peace initiatives full of good will which have once again been reaffirmed in the very pithy [soderzhatelnyy] report by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov at this grand meeting. We sincerely wish all nationalities in the Soviet Union, closely uniting around the Communist Party and its command, new and greater successes on the road of building communism and in the struggle for peace and freedom of the world's people.

Dear comrades and friends! In the struggle for the liberation if his country, Comrade Ho Chi Minh, the founder of our party and state, found in Lenin's program on the national and colonial questions the road to the salvation of the nation and country. Following the road of Lenin, combining the national liberation struggle with the struggle to build socialism, the Communist Party of Vietnam has led the people of their revolution from victory to victory and to the glorious victory of today: The whole country has become independent and unified and is advancing to socialism. At present, carrying out the historic tasks worked out by the fifth congress of our party, the Vietnamese people are endeavoring to successfully build socialism and firmly defend their homeland to combat intervention and the threat of aggression, by hegemonism in collusion with imperialism and other reactionary forces, to contribute to peace and stability in Indochina and Southeast Asia. After more than half a century of struggle for independence, freedom, and socialism, our people are today firmly confident in their strength and are very happy to have the Soviet Union by their side. The Communist Party and people of the Soviet Union are devoted and generous friends and very loyal comrades in arms to the Vietnamese Communists and people.

Today, our two countries, the homelands of Lenin and Ho Chi Minh, are bound more closely than ever-before by the Vietnam-USSR Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, a treaty full of noble proletarian internationalism. In the past 4 years, in the light of that historic treaty, the cooperation between our two parties and our two countries has achieved a new dimension. The Vietnamese-Soviet friendship is blossoming and developing its strong effect in all fields.

Allow me to express here the sincere and deep gratitude of the Communist Party, the government and the people of Vietnam to the Communist Party and the fraternal people of the Soviet Union for their very great support and assistance to the Vietnamese revolution.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the other fraternal socialist countries, the communist and workers' parties and all friends in the five continents for their constant support for the Vietnamese people's just cause. The Communist Party and people of Vietnam are determined to do their best to be worthy of that precious assistance.

Long live the great Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, firm bulwark of peace and world revolution!
Long live invincible Marxism-Leninism!
Long live peace and socialism!

COMPARISON OF SHEVARDNADZE SPEECH ON 21 DEC

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 22 December in its Second Edition carries on page 3 on account of the speech delivered by E.A. Shevardnadze, first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, at the 21 December Kremlin meeting marking the 60th and anniversary of the USSR.

The PRAVDA report has been compared with the Moscow Domestic Service version published in the 22 December Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages P 10-P11, revealing the following variations:

Page P 11, following paragraph 1, PRAVDA adds:

Socialist discipline is a democratic category. Discipline and organization represent a protective shield for voluntary participation and democratism, and without the masses' broad democratism and creativity there is no conscious discipline.

Page P 11, paragraph 2, line 4, PRAVDA adds the following after "...and labor discipline.":

All this time the republics life has been permeated with concern for enhancing our people's responsibility to the Soviet motherland.

Page P 11, paragraph 4, line 7, PRAVDA adds the following after "...has been followed.":

But the enemies peddle a different story. Imperialists, transatlantic Sovietologists and political scientists of all hues are "predicting" the breakup of our union. The people in that camp display special "concern" for the Georgians and expatiate on the so-called "Russification," the "oppression" of the Georgian language and the belittling of the role of Georgian culture.

Here are just two facts: A child "must not only learn to speak English; he must stop speaking any other language." This is said in America. Tens of millions of people speaking other languages have migrated to the United States. "They must shed forever the skin of their forebears so that they no longer remember anything about it." That is the way the American way of life was established.

At one time there were 3 million Indians living in the United States. Their tragic fate is well known.

So these people are supposed to be concerned about Georgia, which has the world's largest number of specialists per 10,000 people, most of whom have received higher education in their native language; where classes are conducted in 7 languages in schools and VUZes and where young people are also mastering Russian with particular love; where newspapers, magazines and books are published in dozens of languages?!

Page P 11, following paragraph 4, PRAVDA adds the following:

There were less than 1 million Georgians left 200 years ago. Today we are a 5-million-strong republic.

Two worlds which are poles apart. Over there you have the fate of the American Indians and migrants. Here you have the example of the Georgians, Abkhazians, Osetians and others. (applause)

Page P 11, paragraph 5, line 1, PRAVDA reads: ...It may be that our critics do not know what colossal... (adding "do not")

Same paragraph, lines 3 and 4, PRAVDA reads: ...admit another thing: When it is a question of a national phenomenon -- language, culture, spirit of the people -- Communists do not... (repunctuating)

Same paragraph, line 9, PRAVDA adds the following after "...Great Russian people.":

Next year we celebrate the glorious bicentennial of our linking up with Russia. What force drew Georgians into fraternity with their northern neighbor? Hope of being saved from physical and spiritual destruction? Yes, undoubtedly.

But not only that! The main factor which drew Georgia to Russia was the very nature of the Great Russian people, their all-around giftedness, like Lomonosov, for example; their bright, signing talent, as exemplified by Pushkin; their conscience and moral wisdom, as exemplified by Tolstoy; their self-sacrifice and readiness to give their lives for social justice -- all that the Decembrists, revolutionary democrats and, ultimately, the Leninist-Bolsheviks brought with them; their perspicacity and class awareness, their revolutionary spirit, their genius, the genius of the Great Lenin. (applause)

Only that kind of people, a leader-people, could have carried out a socialist revolution and wrought, by the will of the party, an invincible realm of fraternity and equal rights.

At our radiant festival, on the threshold of the bicentennial of the Treaty of Georgiyevsk -- the manifesto of friendship between Russians and Georgians -- I have been granted the supreme honor on behalf of present-day Georgia -- one of our union's founding republics -- and on behalf of our heroic forebears who laid the foundations of Russian-Georgian fraternity to offer to Great Russia from the depths of my heart and soul words of gratitude for the salvation of Georgia and for the fact that today it is flourishing and shining brightly in the constellation of Soviet peoples.

COMPARISON OF ROMANOV SPEECH AT 21 DEC SESSION

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 22 December in its Second Edition carries on page 4 the "text" of the speech delivered by G.V. Romanov, first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom, at the 21 December Kremlin meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the USSR. The PRAVDA report has been compared with the Moscow Domestic Service version published in the 22 December Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages P 6-P 7, revealing the following variations:

Page P 6, following paragraph 4, PRAVDA adds:

Next January it will be 40 years since the raising of the blockade of Leningrad. Will the inhabitants of our city ever forget the illustrious sons and daughters of all the peoples of the country who fought to the death by the walls of the Neva stronghold in the Great Patriotic War years? Will they ever forget the nobility and selflessness of those who used their own bodies to give shelter and warmth to thousands of children, old folk and women snatched from the ring of fire of the blockade? All this stays with us forever. This is our shared life story. (applause)

Page P 6, following paragraph 5, PRAVDA adds:

This faith, augmented by our cadres' political and civic maturity, and by the selfless labor of the millions, have brought the Soviet state to the forefront of economic and social progress. The scientific, technical and production potential of Leningrad and Leningrad Oblast are a component of the powerful interlinked national economic complex.

Page P 6, paragraph 6, lines 2 and 3, PRAVDA reads: ...the biochemical industry have been formed here and are developing at an accelerated pace on the basis of the all-union division of labor alongside traditional sectors -- power machine building, precision machine building, shipbuilding. Fundamental research is under way in the fields of physics, mathematics, chemistry, geology, medicine, in... (supplying additional passage; substituting "geology" for "biology")

Page P 7, following paragraph 1, PRAVDA adds:

While speaking of what has been achieved, at the same time we are assessing realistically what has been done, can see the difficulties and unresolved issues, particularly on the level of further raising production efficiency and making more rational use of material and labor resources.

Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov said today that certain shortcomings -- and they concern not just the observance of Soviet society's norms -- cannot be attributed to the vestiges of the past and that they were even the result of our own errors in educational and economic activity.

In keeping with the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) plenum's demands, the oblast party organization is carrying out a broad search for and experimental testing of economic and organizational measures which would ensure highly productive labor to a high standard and would develop the initiative and responsibility of each person for his assigned area of work.

Page P 7, following paragraph 2, PRAVDA adds:

Comrades! Major new initiatives which attest to the Soviet land's unshakeable adherence to a policy of peace and the elimination of the treat of nuclear holocaust have resounded from the Kremlin, here, today to the whole world. (applause)

Our country, born with the Decree on Peace, remains a reliable bulwark of peace and social progress. We all have no greater concern than to continue to strengthen its economic and defensive might by means of unity of will and actions and creative labor. (applause)

SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM SESSION HELD 12 JAN

Report on Andropov Speech

LD121808 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] A regular session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium took place today in the Kremlin under the chairmanship of Comrade Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The Presidium examined the results of the USSR Supreme Soviet's activity in 1982 and the plan of measures envisaged for implementation in 1983. Comrade Kuznetsov delivered a report on this topic.

The presidium approved the plan for the main measures envisaged for implementation by the USSR Supreme Soviet in 1983. Following a report by Comrade Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the session examined the work of the soviets of peoples' deputies in further developing friendship and cooperation among the peoples of the USSR and on the internationalist education of the working people.

Speaking on this question, Comrade Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, stressed the rich and many-sided practical work of the soviets of peoples' deputies in the jubilee year in further developing friendship and cooperation among the peoples of our country.

He drew attention to the task of soviets in solving the tasks of state and sociocultural construction: to take more concrete and profound consideration of specific national character and to show more concern for the all-round development of all nations and ethnic groups, especially the least numerous peoples.

The need to insistently eliminate from practice any deviation from Lenin's nationalities policy, and to consistently secure the full equality of Soviet people of all nationalities was stressed. In the adopted resolution, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium charged the soviets of people's deputies -- guided by the decisions of the 26th party congress, the subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and the provisions contained in the materials of the solemn session devoted to the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR -- to pay constant attention to the development and deepening of friendship and cooperation of the peoples of the USSR, to a successful solution of the nationwide tasks of developing the economy and raising the well-being and culture of the working people, taking careful consideration of the peculiarities of each union republic and the interests of all nations and ethnic groups of the country.

The attention of the soviets of people's deputies and the bodies subordinated to them is concentrated on doing everything to ensure fuller use of material-technical, natural and manpower resources, taking into account the climate and other peculiarities of each republic, strengthening inter-republican economic relations, contractual and executive discipline, perfecting the deployment of production force, regional specialization and coordination [kooperatisiya], development of transportation and the road network, and the most rational participation of the potential of a republic in the all-union potential.

Special attention must be paid to the practical implementation of the USSR Food Program and of those concrete tasks which are defined in it for all union republics, and to the development of the agroindustrial complex, so that each union republic can make a real contribution in the near future to the most important task: the uninterrupted supply of food to Soviet people.

Local soviets must take additional measures to increase the production, range and improved quality of consumer goods, especially traditional goods and items in demand among the local population.

They must all pay greater attention to the development of peoples arts and crafts, and actively promote the extension and improvement of training for qualified workers from among all nations and ethnic groups living in the republics, the further cohesion and development of multinational labor collectives and the creation in them of an atmosphere of friendship and fraternity and discipline.

The task has been set of using to the maximum the potential of existing institutions of learning, and cultural and art establishments on the territory of soviets of people's deputies in order to educate the working people in a spirit of mutual respect and friendship of all nations and ethnic groups of the country, of love for the Soviet motherland, internationalism, solidarity with working people of other countries, and of determinedly developing the forms and methods of work which correspond to contemporary demands, to enrich national cultures and to use all that is best in the spiritual inheritance and traditions of each people of our country, to counteract more actively the attempts to idealize outdated customs, to develop in every way new Soviet traditions and rites [obryad], to resolutely rid oneself of that which runs counter to the norms of Soviet communal life, socialist morality and communist ideals, to struggle against such negative phenomena as nationalist tendencies, conceit and a disrespectful attitude toward other nations and ethnic groups.

The decision underlines the importance of persistently perfecting the forms of participation by the working people of all nationalities in the activities of soviets of peoples' deputies and in administration of the affairs of state and society. It is necessary to adopt measures so that in the conditions of the multinational composition of union and autonomous republics all nationalities are properly represented in Soviet organs, to raise political activeness among the population, to create conditions for the effective work of organs of public [obshchetvennyy] amateur activities, to make more active the work of deputies in constituencies and workers' collectives, to foster in every way the implementation of the obligation imposed upon them by law to strengthen the friendship of all nations and ethnic groups of the USSR.

A report on this was delivered by Rekunkov, USSR procurator general. Speeches on this subject were made by Members of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Andropov, Grishin, Kunayev, Romanov, Shcherbitskiy, Rashidov, Novoselova, and by Comrades Kosoyen and Kebin deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. They noted the need to further step up the work of the Procuratorate [projuratura] in supervising the observance of legislation and the requirements of state discipline, in pinpointing and halting the theft of socialist property, in the struggle against official abuses, bribery, waste and mismanagement, in forestalling breaches of the law, in ensuring the reliable defense of the rights and interests of Soviet citizen: A number of questions concerning improving the work of the Militia and coordination of the work of all law enforcement agencies in the struggle against crime were raised by Comrade Fedorchuk, USSR minister of internal affairs.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a decision proposing that the USSR procurator general and the procurators subordinate to him should adopt measures for fuller use of the powers given them by the Constitution and by USSR legislation to carry out supreme supervision of the exact and uniform execution of laws throughout the country, regardless of any local or departmental influence there might be. The need was indicated to the organs of the Procuratorate to ensure unconditional fulfillment of the requirements of the CPSU Central Committee: for intensification of the defense or labor and other rights and the lawful interests of citizens, for the painstaking and timely examination of submitted complaints about violations of legality and state discipline, and for raising the efficacy of supervising compliance with the law on the examination of appeals from the working people to administrative bodies at enterprises, institutions and organizations.

The Presidium then studied information about letters from the working people which have reached the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the editorial board of the newspaper IZVESTIYA on the subject of a thrifty use of bread. Having noted the correctness of questions posed in those letters regarding the thrifty use of bread, one of our most important riches, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidum entrusted the appropriate state bodies and organizations to adopt additional measures ensuring the fulfillment of earlier adopted decisions on the rational use of bread and other foodstuffs.

Other questions pertaining to the life of the state were also examined.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session was attended by senior officials of CPSU Central Committee departments, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers, and various ministries and departments.

TV Report

LD122038 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian at 1800 GMT on 12 January, in its Vremya newscast, carries a video report on the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chaired by Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Kuznetsov is shown standing and reading a text. Shots of Grishin, Romanov and Menteshashvili are shown sitting on his right. The following are shown, from left to right: Andropov, Shcherbitskiy, Kunayev, and Rashidov, sitting on Kuznetsov's left. Andropov, Shcherbitskiy and Kunayev are then shown. Rasul Gamzatov and other USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium members are seen at the conference table. Grishin, Ramanov, Menteshashvili and other Supreme Soviet Presidium members, including Sarkisov, Imashev, Yasnov, Rashiov Kunayev Shcherbitskiy, Andropov and Kuznetson, are shown.

BELORUSSIAN, CPSU OFFICIALS HONOR KISELEV

LD131310 Moscow Domestic Service in Russisan 1130 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] Belorussia pays its respects to Tikhon Yakovlevich Kiselev. Flags have been lowered on the squares and streets of Minsk. Residents of the hero town and working people of the republic are saying goodbye to this eminent figure in the Communist Party and Soviet state, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, Tikhon Yakovlevich Kiselev.

The heart of one of the best sons of the Belorussian people has stopped beating. His life was totally devoted to the great cause of building communism. Tikhon Yakovlevich Kiselev's talent as an organizer and party leader appeared during the difficult years of post-war reconstruction. Subsequently, no matter to which complex sectors of the creative front the party sent him, he showed initiative and creativity, purposefulness and steadfastness, for which he won recognition and high authority.

The constant rise in the Belorussian economy, science and technology as well as its progress toward contemporary impressive heights are closely linked with the name of Kiselev.

The government house is in mourning. In the hall of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet the coffin with the body of the deceased is placed. Thousands of Minsk residents and residents of other towns and villages of the republic are going there today to pay their last respects and love to Tikhon Yakovlevich Kiselev. In front of the catafalque are the gold hammer and sickle medal of Hero of Socialist Labor, five Orders of Lenin, Orders of the October Revolution, the Order of Merit and other awards by which the motherland marked his services.

Solemn music is played. At the coffin is a wreath from the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers. There are also wreaths from the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the republic, from working people of the RSFSR, Ukraine, Lithuania and from social organizations of Belorussia and labor collectives.

In the honor guard by the coffin were Comrade Kapitonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Slyunkov, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party; Comrade Polyakov, chairman of the Presidium of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet; Comrade Aksenov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic; and members of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau.

Working people from Minsk enterprises and construction sites came to pay respect to the deceased. Tikhon Yakovlevich Kiselev frequently visited production collectives and took an interest in people's work and daily life. In the mourning column were rural workers. As the son of a peasant, Tikhon Yakovlevich was quite familiar with the concerns of farmers and knew from experience the real price of bread.

The honor guard is changed and deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR, members of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, the Presidium of the republican Supreme Soviet, military staff, leaders of party and local municipal organizations of the town of Minsk and the oblast, and representatives of labor collectives keep a solemn watch at the coffin. Working people of the republic take their leave of Tikhon Yakovlevich Kiselev.

SLYUNKOV ELECTED NEW BELORUSSIAN PARTY HEAD

LD130952 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] The Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee held a plenum in Minsk today to examine an organizational issue. Comrade Slyunkov, who previously worked as deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan, was elected first secretary of the Central Committee of the Belorussian Communist Party.

Comrade Kapitonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the work of the plenum.

CC DIRECTIVE VIEWS PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY, QUALITY

LD130508 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has examined the issue of the work of the party organization of the Dnepropetrovsk production association Dneproshina imeni 26-ogo Sezda KPSS in raising production efficiency and the quality of output.

The decision suggests that the party committee of the association specifically, guided by the accumulated experience, should further improve its activity in fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th party congress and the November 1982 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee; should direct its organizational and ideological-educative work toward resolution of the central task of the 5-year period, which is to achieve all possible intensification of production, and the highest possible results with minimum losses; and should create economic and organizational conditions which would stimulate qualitative and productive labor, and initiative and enterprise of every member of the labor collective.

The decision is to be published in the press.

ISRAEL: USSR SAID STIFFENING IMMIGRATION POLICY

TA130631 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] The Soviet authorities have stiffened their reaction to applications for immigration to Israel and they inform Jews that their applications are finally and absolutely rejected for the rest of their lives. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh points out that until recently the Soviets had not used such harsh language in rejecting applications. Last month only 170 Jews left the Soviet Union.

SUPREME SOVIET AMNESTY DECREE PUBLISHED

PM121327 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Dec 82 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on Amnesty in Connection With the 60th Anniversary of the USSR's Formation

In connection with the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation and guided by the principles of socialist humanism, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium RESOLVES [capitalized word printed in boldface]:

1. To release from punishment those sentenced to a term of incarceration up to 5 years inclusive or to punishment not involving incarceration as follows:

A) persons who have taken part in combat operations in defense of the Soviet motherland;

B) persons who have been awarded USSR orders and medals;

C) women.

2. To release from punishment taking the form of incarceration, irrespective of its term, the following categories of convicts:

A) women with children below the age of majority and pregnant women;

B) men over 60 and women over 55 years of age;

C) class I and class II invalids.

3. To release male minors sentenced to incarceration for a term of up to 2 years inclusive who have previously not served a sentence in corrective labor institutions.

4. To release from incarceration those whose remaining sentence is less than 6 months.

5. To release punishment military servicemen sentenced to be sent to a disciplinary battalion.

6. To release from incarceration -- this release being conditional upon compulsory labor enlistment -- apart from those subject to articles 1-5 of the present decree, those sentenced to a term of:

A) up to 3 years inclusive;

B) from 3-5 years inclusive who have served at least 1 year of their sentence.

7. To reduce the outstanding portion of the sentence:

A) by half for those persons listed in article 1 of the decree sentenced to over 5 years' incarceration and for those persons cited in article 3 of the decree sentenced to over 2 years' incarceration;

B) by half for those persons sentenced to incarceration for crimes of negligence;

C) by 1/3 for those persons conditionally sentenced to incarceration with compulsory labor enlistment and for those paroled from incarceration with compulsory labor enlistment who are working at national economic enterprises and construction projects.

8. To release from serving an additional sentence taking the form of exile [ssylka] and banishment [vysylka] those persons listed under articles 1, 2 and 4 of the decree.

9. To dismiss all the following cases under investigation and cases which have not been examined by the courts:

Of crimes committed prior to the entry into force of the present decree by persons listed in article 2 of the decree;

Of crimes committed before the entry into force of the decree by persons listed in article 1 of the decree and for which the law envisages punishment in the form of up to 5 years' incarceration inclusive or punishment without incarceration;

Of crimes committed by persons listed in article 3 of the decree and for which the law envisages punishment in the form of up to 2 years' incarceration inclusive or punishment without incarceration.

In cases concerning crimes committed before the entry into force of the decree of persons listed in article 1 of the decree and for which the law provides for a punishment of over 5 years' incarceration and also by persons indicated in article 3 of the decree and for which the law provides for punishment of over 2 years' incarceration, the court is to release from penalty persons thus sentenced if it has deemed it necessary envisaged in the aforesaid articles of the decree or a punishment not involving incarceration. When designating in such instances a punishment exceeding the term envisaged in articles 1 and 3 of the decree and also when designating a punishment in the form of incarceration for crimes of negligence, the court is to halve the sentence.

In cases concerning crimes committed before the entry into force of the decree by persons listed in article 5 of the decree, the court is to release from penalty such persons if it has deemed it necessary to designate a punishment in the form of assignment to a disciplinary battalion.

10. The following are not subject to release on the basis of article 6 of the present decree:

A) persons who committed crimes during normal conscript military service and likewise convicted persons serving sentences in colony settlements for those who have committed crimes of negligence, and convicted persons in colony settlements;

B) minors;

C) convicted foreign citizens and stateless persons.

11. The amnesty does not apply to persons:

A) convicted for particularly dangerous state crimes and also for crimes envisaged by articles 14, 14(1), 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, and 25 of the USSR law "On Criminal Responsibility for State Crimes," article 2 section "B", article 4 sections "B" and "C" article 6 section "A," article 11 sections "A" and "C", article 13 section "A," article 15 section "B," article 19 section "E," and article 21 section "C" of the USSR law "On Criminal Responsibility for Military Crimes";

B) particularly dangerous recidivists;

C) persons convicted of the following crimes: premeditated homicide (except for homicide committed when in a state of strong emotional distress of a exceeding the limits of justifiable defense); premeditated grievous bodily harm (except for harm caused when in a state of strong emotional distress or exceeding the limits of justifiable defense); attempted murder of a militiaman or member of a people's voluntary militia squad; aggravated rape; robbery; robbery with violence; embezzlement of state or public property on a particularly large scale; speculation with aggravating circumstances; theft of firearms, ammunition or explosives; accepting or giving bribes or acting as intermediary in bribery; particularly malicious hooliganism and also for the crimes envisaged by articles 142, 162, 190(1), 190(3), 207, 209, 210, 213(2), 224, 224(1), 224(2), 227 and 228 of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of other union republics' criminal codes;

D) persons previously sentenced to incarceration for premeditated crimes;

E) persons previously released from incarceration before the expiration of the full term of a sentence imposed by a court under an amnesty or through a pardon and who have again committed a premeditated crime;

F) persons who maliciously violated the regulations during the term of a sentence;

G) persons who have not undergone the complete course of treatment for alcoholism, drug addition and veneral disease.

12. The present decree enters into force on the day of its promulgation.

V. Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium,

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Moscow, the Kremlin, 27 December 1982.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA ON SOVIET PEOPLES FRATERNITY

PM121601 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Dec 82 Second Editon p 1

[Editorial: "Architect of Fraternity"]

[Excerpt] Today, after 60 years, we can state with pride and confidence that the Communist Party has fulfilled that mandate of Lenin's [to strengthen the union of socialist republics]. It has put all its revolutionary energy and tremendous will and labor into creating a socialist multinational state. And the profound internationalism of Soviet people and the unbreakable fraternal friendship of the peoples are one of the chief, truly invaluable gains on this path.
Practice is the criterion for any truth. The edifice of our fraternity built by a wise architect has repeatedly proved its strength. In the construction of Magnitka and the Turkestan-Siberian railroad, in the battle for Stalingrad and in the fighting at the crossing of the Dnepr, in the depths of space, on the line of the Baykal-Amur mainrailroad.... We built life, and life built us. And when the layers of virgin land were being upturned, when the new districts of earthquake-ravaged Tashkent were rising up and when combined Komsomol detachments were blowing up the permafrost, at the same time our awareness of inseparability from that historically unprecedented community called the Soviet people was being upturned, blown up, built and raised to new levels.

The signs and features of our community are easily visible in all spheres of life -- the economy, politics and culture. It is known that there are still people in the West who like to calculate how many people in our country drink Georgian tea, dress in Uzbek cotton and use Azerbaijan or Bashkir petroleum to fill their car tanks. Why are these calculations? To make our people clash and argue with one another? To present economic relations among the republics in an egoistic, mercenary light? Vain attempts! The economy of developed socialism represents a unified national economic complex developing on the basis of the social division of labor among the republics. Being an internationalist, Lenin emphasized, means "thinking NOT about one's own nation alone but placing the interests of everyone ABOVE IT". [capitalized words published in boldface type] The essence of communists' internationalist awareness consists in the fact that it is not parochial or departmental interests that are in the forefront with them but statewide interests. This is why the party sees behind the cotton harvest in Uzbekistan the work of Urals metallurgical workers and Leningrad machine builders, Kuzbass miners and Altay grain growers. And this applies to all union and autonomous republics and all the country's krays and oblasts. Here are just a few figures attesting to our all-union concerns. The Ukraine: 820 enterprises in 12 union republics participated in constructing the Kremenchug GES. Kazakhstan: 300 enterprises in 11 republics participated in creating the Karaganda metallurgical combine. The RSFSR: 2,200 enterprises in 15 republics for the Bratsk GES. The RSFSR's Tatar ASSR: 1,460 enterprises for the Kama truck plant.
Festivals of the union republics have been held in the jubilee year at the USSR exhibition of national economic achievements. In point of fact, each one was a materialized poem about the creator-people and their inexhaustible spiritual strength. And the exhibition's foreign guests were struck by the socialist nation's cultural achievements no less than by their economic successes. Could one have indifferently passed by, say, such a comparison: Six decades ago there was not a single VUZ in Central Asia and Kazakhstan and only a very insignificant number of schools, but today 125 VUZes have been set up in those republics, and 93,500 scientific workers are employed there.

We are accustomed to these figures. We are not surprised at the fact that one book in every four published in the world is one of ours, that 50 percent more apartments are built in just 1 year in our country than in Britain, France, the FRG, Italy and Canada put together, and the rent amounts to just 3 percent of the family budget. That more than one-third of the total number of doctors in the world work in country....

All this does not surprise us, for we see it as the organic embodiment of the socialist way of life and the result of the active fulfillment of the party's social program. And this program is truly impressive. In the seventies alone almost twice as many funds as in the previous decade were allocated to satisfying the Soviet people's growing requirements. A substantial and significant rise in our living standards: And no less impressive targets have been outlined in the 11th 5-Year Plan.

There are things which cannot be expressed in terms of rubles, although they have a material expression: the right to work and to choose a profession, confidence in one's children's future and in a secure old age.... But, while taking pride in our successes, we are far from presenting our social problems in a rosy light. And it is not by accident that we call them problems.

On the agenda are the fulfillment of the Food Program, the improvement of working and living conditions in the country's newly opened-up northern and eastern regions, the strengthening of production and moral discipline.... There are also complexities in the difficult and dialectically contradictory process of the socialist nations' development. "The party keeps a keen eye open to see to it that the new processes and problems in the sphere of national relations, which are constantly arising out of the development of such a large multinational state as ours, receive timely and full reflection in the activity of party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol organizations and economic organs." These lines from the CPSU Central Committee reoslution "On the 60th Anniversary of the USSR's Formation" make us recall once again the party's well-known demand: The best way to mark a portentous date in the life of the country is to make it stronger, sturdier and mightier with one's labor.

See the key directions of economic and social progress. Concretize them with regard to the tasks of each labor collective. Place politically mature, enterprising and competent organizers in decisive sectors. Enhance labor activeness...clear-but, businesslike demands. Formulated by the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) plenum, they are to the liking of the labor country and have elicited a response from all Soviet people.

It has now become customary to compare the Union of Soviet Republics with a united family and a strong and happy home. Today our home is 60 years old. A considerable time according to the yardsticks of a human life, but not too great in terms of historical landmarks. But however you measure it and whatever you compare it with, everyone -- both those who live in this home, their friends and neighbors and those who wish our family ill -- everyone agrees on one thing: With every passing year the edifice of the union is becoming stronger and more beautiful.

PRAVDA REPORTS RESULT OF YEAR-OLD FRAUD CASE

PM121643 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 18 December 1982 in its Second Edition carries on page 3 a 1,500-word article entitled "The Plant That Did Not Exist" by I. Shatunovskiy, following up a "feuilleton" entitled "The Plant That Does Not Exist" carried in PRAVDA on 30 January 1982. The author describes how "some leaders of the USSR and RSFSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture and of the USSR Ministry of Construction territorial Main Administration for Construction in Western Regions of the RSFSR and its No 49 construction trust" were guilty of "dereliction of duty" in conniving at a conspiracy to fake figures concerning the commissioning and operation of a motor repair plant in the settlement of Siverskiy, outside Leningrad.

The article outlines the findings of the trial which followed the publication. All the accused were found guilty, and sentences ranging from 4 years in a hard-regime corrective labor colony with confiscation of property for plant director K. Nikiforov to a suspended sentence of 1 year's imprisonment were given. All accused were removed from their jobs prior to the trial.

The article concludes: "So let this story, which was told in our feuilleton and which landed its heroes in court, serve as a warning signal to all those indolent wheeler-dealers who try to hide mismanagement and slipshod work behind the flourishes of a phoney report.

"The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee has expelled L. Barashkov from the party for abusing his official position while chief of the RSFSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture Main Administration of Plants and for deceiving the state regarding the acceptance for commissioning of the uncompleted Siverskiy motor repair plant. The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee has instructed Leningrad Obkom to examine the question of the personal responsibility of other Communists guilty of exaggerated reporting and falsification."

SOLOMENTSEV ADDRESSES TEXTILE MINISTRY COLLEGIUM

LD130648 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0204 GMT 13 Jan 83

[Text] At an extended session of the Collegium of the RSFSR Ministry of the Textile Industry immediate measures for improvement of work of subordinate enterprises and economic and rational use of raw materials and other material resources in the light of the demands of 26th Congress of the CPSU and of the November plenum of the CPSU Central Committee have been discussed. Comrade Solomentsev candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, spoke to those present.

SHEVARDNADZE ATTENDS OPENING OF RAILROAD LINE

PM121521 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 83 Second Edition p 2

[PRAVDA correspondent G. Lebanidze report under rubric "We Report the Details": "Mountain Railroad"]

[Excerpts] Georgian SSR [no date given] -- The republic's 5-year plan envisages constructing the Marabda-Akhalkalaki railroad. The project is being successfully fulfilled. The first phase of the railroad, linking Marabda to Tetritskaro, has been opened.

The ribbon was cut. The electric locomotive driven by railroad transport veteran N. Azmayparashvili gathered speed.

When construction is completed the 200-km line will run through five rayons -- Marneulskiy, Tetritskaroyskiy, Tsalkskiy, Bogdanovskiy and Akhalkalakskiy. It will help form a major national economic complex in the southwest of the republic, where coal and polymetallic ores and also valuable construction materials -- tuff and basalt -- have been discovered.

The railroad will help bring thousands of hectares of virgin land in this zone into agricultural circulation.

With a blast of its whistle, the locomotive greeted the hundreds of people who met the train in the rayon center of Tetritskaro. Celebrations were held there in which E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, took part.

ROMANOV ATTENDS MEETING, SIGNS OBITUARY

PM121157 [Editorial Report] Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian on 10 December 1982 publishes on page 1 a LENTASS report entitled "Aktiv Meeting". It states that "G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom," read the text of a Central Committee message at a 9 December meeting of the Leningrad party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol aktiv together with working people's representatives on fulfilling Food Program targets.

Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian on 15 December 1982 publishes on page 4 an obituary of K.N. Chepagin, which states that "on 13 December 1982, Konstantin Nikolayevich Chepagin, member of the CPSU since 1952, candidate member of the Leningrad Gorkom, deputy of the Leningrad City Soviet and chief of the Leningrad CPSU Gorkom general section, died suddenly. "We have lost a loyal comrade, an experienced leader and a good organizer. K.N. Chepagin was born in 1926 in Leningrad." The obituary is signed by G.V. Romanov and others.

RSFSR MINISTER SPEAKS ON LEGAL INSTITUTIONS ROLE

LD130030 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] An all-Russian conference of lawyers is being held in Moscow today. It is to deal with increasing the role of legal institutions [pravovyye sredstva] in carrying out the USSR Food Program. At the microphone is Vladimir Mikhaylovich Blinov, RSFSR minister of justice.

The innovative decisions adopted in the Food Program demand new, more modern approaches to the legal regulation of the now complex economic links, and to safeguarding legality in all sections of the agroindustrial complex. Questions of further developing and deepening juridicial services to enterprises and organizations engaged in the production, processing and delivering to the consumer of agricultural products, are on the agenda of the conference of workers in the bodies of justice, state arbitration, legal services for ministries and departments of the agroindustrial complex, and RSFSR rural lawyers. Every year in the state and collective farms of the republic alone, about 250,000 assorted economic contracts are concluded. It is not by chance therefore, that attention was above all paid to strengthening state discipline, improving contractual links, and increasing mutual responsibility.

At the conference detailed consideration was given to means for the legal defense of sovkhoz and kolkhoz property, to preventing mismanagement and loss of products, and to the recovery of losses from mismanagement, the spoiling of agricultural products, and the dismantling [razukomplektovaniye] of agricultural machinery. Last year for example, through the efforts of rural lawyers, almost R300 million was returned to the funds of collective and state farms directly from the culprits through the courts and arbitration.

In the plan for the development of new directions in agrarian policies, at the conference such fundamental questions were discussed as the participation of lawyers in the legal safeguarding of the brigade contract, with payment on final results at kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The rendering of legal aid in the development of subsidiary farms at enterprises and organizations, and certain other matters were also discussed.

Many speakers emphasized that the precise implementation of the legislature on labor discipline, the struggle against avoiding work and drunkeness, should become a object of special concern for the legal service at all levels. Lawyers can, after all do much to create an uncompromising public attitude toward those who violate labor discipline.

1982 GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION REVIEWED

LD121102 Moscow TASS in English 1036 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS -- One of the Soviet Union's key economic programs in the current five year plan period (1981-1985) -- the construction of six trans-continental gas pipelines from Siberia to the European part of the USSR -- is being successfully implemented considerably ahead of schedule. Last year a total of 5,200 kilometres of those gas pipelines have been laid, and 21 compressor stations have been built for them.

Over the five-year plan period the six gas pipelines from Siberia will increase the flow of gas in the country by 200,000 million cubic metres. This is exactly the figure of the increase in the output of gas in Western Siberia. The aggregate length of these gas pipelines will top 20,000 kilometres. This gigantic project will require two thirds of all capital investments in the gas industry of the USSR in the current five year plan period.

In 1982 the Urengoy-Petrovsk gas pipeline, which is 2,731 kilometres long, reached its design output capacity. The laying of a 3,346 kilometre Urengoy-Novopskov gas pipeline has been completed. More than 2,000 kilometres of pipes have been welded together since the start of the past summer also on the route of the Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline.

The export gas pipeline is already the fourth gas main to be laid by the Soviet builders in the current five year plan period. The first -- the Urengoy-Moscow gas pipeline became operational in 1981. Thus, over the two years of the five year plan period (1981-1985) more than 10,000 kilometres of gas pipelines have been built from Siberia to the European part of the country -- a half of their total length. The two gas pipelines already feed vast quantities of Siberian gas to mills, factories and other consumers in the central regions of the Soviet Union.

The New Year will be marked by the launching of another two trans-continental gas pipelines. The Urengoy-Novopskov gas pipeline is to become operational in summer. The construction of the Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline is due to be completed at the end of the year. In the same year the construction will be started of the two last gas pipelines under the five year plan. They will link Siberia's major deposit with the towns of Kursk and Yelets in Central Russia.

In the USSR gas mains with a pipe diameter of 1,420 mm are under construction. Gas is pumped through them at a pressure of 75 atmospheres. The equipment designed by Soviet scientists, the selfless labour effort by the builders of gas mains have made it possible to double the rate of gas pipeline construction as compared with the preceding five year plan period. If this high rate of construction remains, specialists consider it possible to build a seventh gas pipeline from Siberia to the centre of this country.

BRIEFS

NEW DAM CONSTRUCTION -- The construction has begun of the (Kazansay) water reservoir on the river which runs west of the Tien Shan Mountains. The water to be collected in the reservoir will bring life to the region where vineyards and other fruit groves will be established. [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 9 Jan 83 GF]

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY COLLEGIUM; GORBACHEV SPEAKS

LD121742 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] An extended session of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture Collegium was held today. It discussed practical measures for preparations by kolkhozes and sovkhozes for spring work and for eliminating shortcomings in this work which were noted at the CPSU Central Committee Politburo's session on 30 December.

In 1983 considerable growth in the volume of agricultural production compared with past years is planned. Such great tasks require more coordinated, efficient and organized work, and increased responsibility for the fullest possible use of all potentials and reserves.

However, there are serious shortcomings and omissions in the important matter of preparing for spring field work. While the country as a whole has the necessary quantity of seeds for spring sowing, many farms have not yet ensured their reserves of seeds.

This spring is expected to be a very tense time in (?the north) due to the fact that additional soil has to be prepared and some winter crops will have to be resown. However, half a million tractors and a large quantity of other equipment are now in a state of disrepair on farms. The preparation of heavy tractors is proceeding at a particulary slow rate. The quality of repair work is below requirements and a large number of machines are coming back to the workshops again and again.

There are also instances of an irresponsible attitude with regard to storing equipment. Many machines have been left for the winter with bits of stubble uncleaned from them and have not been put aside for storage as required by technical conditions.

Serious criticism was made at the session about the use of fertilizer and the preparation of meliorated lands.

The Collegium worked out and adopted measures aimed at eliminating the shortcomings.

Comrade Gorbachev, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, spoke at the session. Also taking part were Comrade Nuriyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and heads of many ministries and departments of the agroindustrial complex.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR 8-12 JAN REPORTED

LD130248 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 1-12 January 1983. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

8 January

Snow retention has been carried out on 100,000 hectares Saratov Oblast. The snow cover came late this year, but is now satisfactory on the winter crops, which occupy about 900,000 hectares. (0300 GMT)

The party and economic aktiv of Azerbaijan has met in Baku. The sovkhozes and kolkhozes will be sowing spring crops on an area of about 590,000 hectares. Speakers noted that preparations for this are not going ahead fast enough. Only 89 percent of the planned area has been ploughed.

A number of farms have not been provided with the necessary quantity and quality of seed. The overhaul of farm machinery is taking too long. Some party committees are guilty of complacency and an uncritical attitude. There are serious shortcomings in the work of agriculture ministries and departments, and their local organizations. (1200 GMT)

11 January

More than 80 percent of tractors and vehicles, more than half of the grain combines and all the cultivating machinery have been repaired by Kuybyshev machine operators. (0300 GMT)

A total of 6,500 tractors have been prepared for field work in Omsk Oblast. (0300 GMT)

Kokchetav Oblast farmers are completing snow retention work on the second million hectares. (0700 GMT)

12 January

Nikolayev Oblast ought to produce more than 2.5 million tons of grain crops in 1983. The task will not be an easy one to accomplish due to the vicious and prolonged drought in the autumn of 1982. Productive shoots of winter grain crops have been obtained on only 50 percent of the area. This means that the area to be sown in summer grain crops will double. Areas to be sown in corn for grain will be expanded. This year almost 150,000 heactares will be sown in the oblast in corn. The plan provided for only 85,000 hectares to be sown. (1200 GMT)

Kazakhstan land cultivators are preparing for the spring. Snow retention work has begun on the tenth million hectare. This work is very important. In drought conditions last year, 100 farms in Kazakhstan virgin lands obtained between 16 and 20 quintals of grain crops per hectare. This year it is planned to carry out snow retention work on an area of just over 28 million hectares. (1400 GMT)

Over 50,000 tractors have been overhauled in the Kuban. The farms have all the spring crop seed they need in grades one and two. (1630 GMT)